

Hafa Adai!

Likely natural cause in shark's death. **PAGE 3**
USDOL awards NMI \$1.8M in disaster recovery funding. **PAGE 8**

75¢

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Nov. 1 is new CW-1 deadline

By ERWIN ENCINARES
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REPORTER

The mass exodus of foreign workers under the CNMI-Only Transitional Worker program may have been averted after U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services announced in the wee

hours of Wednesday morning a 30-day reprieve to allow companies to submit their CW extension applications.

USCIC announced it would be considering eligible CW-1 renewal applications even if the agency receives the petition after the CW permit has already expired.

In a statement providing guidance for filing CW-1 petitions seeking an extension of status, or renewal, the federal agency said that they will be

See CW-1 on Page 4



ALLY WEEK

Kyle Thorne, president of the Marianas High School Pride Club, shares with the audience at the Office of the Governor conference room how powerful words from an ally helped him in his journey of discovering himself, at yesterday's proclamation of Sept. 23-27, 2019 as CNMI Ally Week.

Story on
Page 7

IVA MAURIN

'Judiciary loan balance at only \$2.1M'

» **Building loan matured in 2015, expected to be paid in full in 24 to 28 months**

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

As of Sept. 15, 2019, the outstanding balance on the Judicial Building loan stood at \$2.1 million, including

interest, according to NMI Settlement Fund trustee Joyce C. H. Tang.

The CNMI government has made regular monthly payments to reduce this debt, Tang said, and, assuming that

the government continues to make such regular payments, it is possible that the loan will be paid off in full in 24 to 28 months.

In her report to the U.S. District Court for the NMI from the fourth quarter of fiscal year

See LOAN on Page 4

CNMI life expectancy in 2018 at 75.7 years

By MARC A. VENUS
marc_venus@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Commonwealth Health Care Corp.

Comparatively, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention places the 2017 life expectancy for the total U.S. population at 78.6 years—a decrease from 78.7 years in 2016.

See LIFE on Page 4

AP EXPLAINS

How the ground shifted on Trump impeachment

By MARY CLARE JALONICK and CALVIN WOODWARD
ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON (AP)—After more than two years of jousting over President Donald

Trump's conduct, the ground suddenly shifted in Congress and a move toward impeachment broke free of constraints.

That does not mean the path ahead is all set.

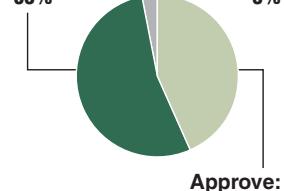
On Tuesday, House Speaker Nancy Pelosi—who for months had been a powerful brake on restive Democrats

See TRUMP on Page 4

Views on Trump

Do you approve or disapprove of President Donald Trump's job performance?

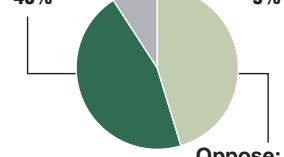
Disapprove: 53% Not sure: 3%



Pelosi

Would you support or oppose impeaching Donald Trump?

Support: 46% Not sure: 9%



Poll of 712 voters, Feb. 7-8
Margin of error: +/-3.7%
Graphic: TNS
Source: Public Policy Polling

INSIDE



NATION

House Speaker Pelosi launches an impeachment inquiry against President Donald Trump.

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ASIA

South Korean President Moon Jae-in calls for deeper engagement with rival North Korea.

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ENVIRONMENT

Mike Fusco of Guam is the winner of Best in Class at the 13th MantaFest in Yap.

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Local

Same-sex couple from Japan to get married in Guam

HAGATNA, Guam (AP)—A same-sex couple from Japan is planning their wedding in Guam, the first U.S. territory to recognize same-sex marriage, officials said.

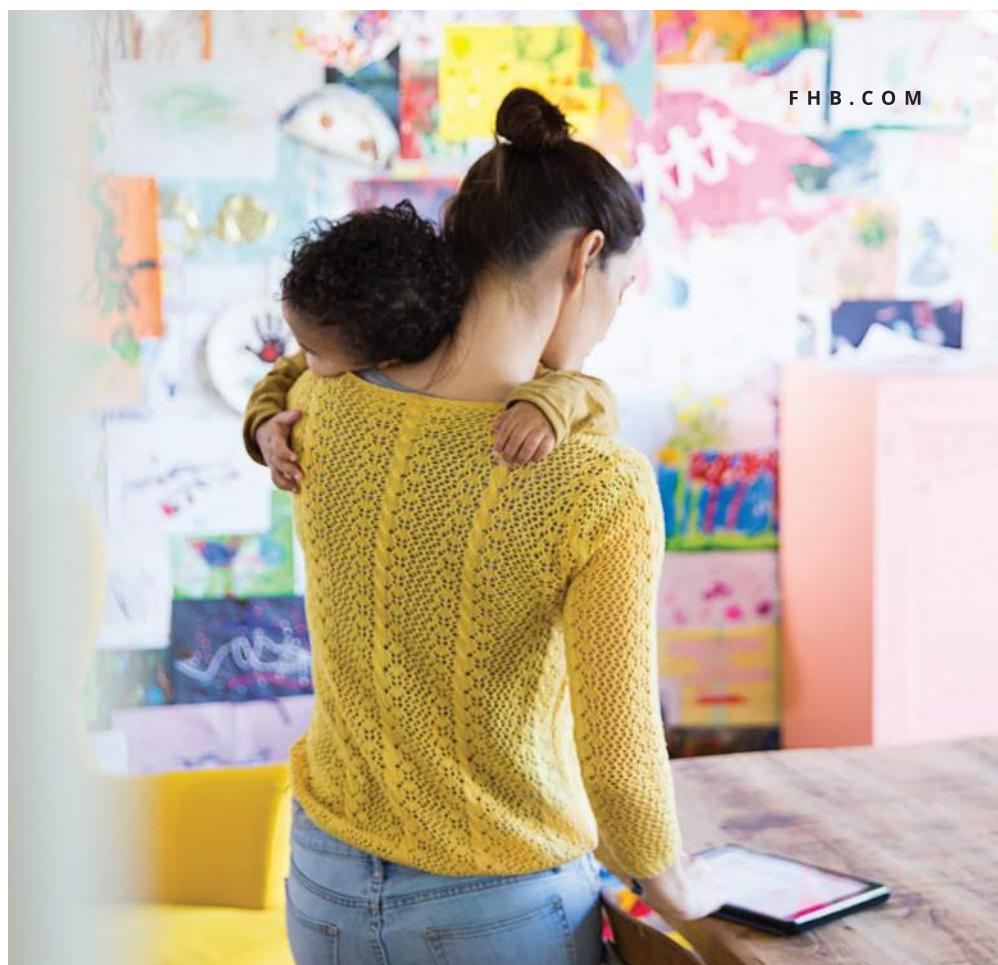
Tsuyoshi Kumagai and Robert Francis Yocum have been in a relationship for 20 years and plan to have their wedding on Wednesday, *Pacific Daily News* reported.

This is believed to be the first same-sex couple from Japan to get married in Guam, said Sumie Kuba, president and general manager for Micronesia Assistance Inc. Same-sex marriage is not recognized in Japan, Kuba said.

Lt. Gov. Josh Tenorio, the first openly gay lieutenant governor in the nation, is expected to officiate, officials said.

"I feel that strength in legal LGBT wedding [in] Guam is that the couple can legally marry within a four-day stay, and the marriage certificate can be issued...[and they can] bring it back home," Kuba said.

Guam's attraction as a wedding destination for members of the LGBTQ communities in the region is



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growing, Kuba said. Since recognizing same-

sex marriage four years ago, Guam has seen 362 marriages between June 2015 and March this year, officials said.

CNMI Scholarship Office looking at revolving funds to offset budget cut

The CNMI Scholarship Office will be drawing funds from a revolving account to ensure that its program and operation will not be affected despite a shortfall in its fiscal year 2020 budget.

According to Scholarship Office board chair Geralyn Dela Cruz, the office's fiscal year 2020 budget is roughly about \$400,000 less than fiscal year 2019's, largely due to the austerity measures and cuts implemented by the CNMI government.

The office originally asked for \$2.1 million for its fiscal year 2020 budget but Gov. Ralph DLG Torres' budget request with the Legislature trimmed this amount to \$1.9 million.

Dela Cruz said she spoke with administrator Rose Camacho about the subsidizing the shortfall through the office's revolving account funds, which consist of the collections that the CSO gets through its student scholarship loans.

The board, consisting of Dela Cruz and Charlene Masiwemai, approved the motion to use the revolving account funds in or-

der to ensure that the office's programs will stay stable.

"I'd like to see that we continue our programs to aid the students of the CNMI in obtaining their postsecondary degrees, and eventually, we will see our investment return with these students returning to the workforce," Dela Cruz said.

The office, along with the numerous government agencies of the CNMI, will be seeing lower budgets this fiscal year 2020 due to the lingering effects of the destruction caused by Super Typhoon Yutu in October 2018. Dela Cruz said that the office is ready to work with the central government regarding this matter and will do whatever they can to keep CNMI students in college.

In her report to the board, Camacho said that most of the office's operations—with the exception of employee salaries—will be paid through the revolving account funds. Camacho said the office has is implementing cost-cutting measures such as cutting travel.

Camacho said she has been

informed that the office's fiscal year 2020 budget has not seen any changes, aside from the decrease that the Office of the Governor did to the entire budget.

The office normally spends around \$800,000 to \$900,000 for the fall semester. However, the office spent over \$1 million this fall semester due to the increased number of applicants.

The budget is currently being reviewed by Torres and must be signed by Sep. 30, 2019, in order to avert a CNMI government shutdown. (Marc A. Venus)

SHEFA sets deadline

The deadline to submit supporting documents for the Saipan Higher Education Financial Assistance scholarship is on Sept. 30, 2019. Office hours is from 7:30am to 4:30pm. For more information, call SHEFA at (670) 233-5995/235-1020/21; fax: (670) 233-5996; website: www.saipanshefa.net; and SHEFA's Facebook page is Saipan Higher Education Financial Assistance (SHEFA). (PR)

WIC POP UP CLINIC

When: Tuesday, Sept. 24, 2019
Wednesday, Sept. 25, 2019 and
Thursday, Sept. 26, 2019

Time: 8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Where: Kobler Youth Center

Call: (670) 285-4069

WIC provides healthy food, nutrition education, and breastfeeding guidance to more than 3,000 moms and children in the CNMI. If you are pregnant, a caregiver, or a mom with children under 5, you can get the right personalized support for you and your family.



"This institution is an equal opportunity provider. This project was supported by Grant 7NM700NM5 CFDA 10.557 from USDA and the Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation (CHCC). The contents above are solely the responsibility of CHCC and do not necessarily represent the official views of USDA."

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NMC launches student mentoring system called 'Starfish'

By MARC A. VENUS
marc_venus@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Northern Marianas College has launched a newly-designed internal network called the "Starfish," which is a dedicated student mentoring system that directly connects students to instructors, academic advisers, and student support staff.

This system is currently operated by NMC's Learning and Student Support Services.

The Starfish system was in development for over a year and was tentatively set to launch during NMC's spring 2019 semester but, with the destruction caused by Super Typhoon Yutu, they had to reschedule and decided to launch this fall.

The system is currently administered by the LSS counselors.

LSS counselor Kaelani Demapan presented the new system to the NMC board of regents last Friday on how it works and what it has done to further advance the college's goals.

"Starfish provides transparency for our students, our faculty, and staff," Demapan said.

As a student monitoring system, it raises flags if a student may need additional or personal support or if students have questions but do not know where to go or where to start. LISS counselors monitor the system and are tasked to assess all the flags provided by both students and faculty.

This is an opportunity for students to discover programs and services available to them on campus. This also provides students an online approach to reach out to their instructors or other NMC staff regarding



MARC A. VENUS
Learning and Student Support Services counselor Kaelani Demapan presents the new "Starfish" system to the NMC board of regents last Friday.

student concerns.

The previous systems had flaws, as students were unable to get the needed help in time. The new system provides a quicker and more effective channel for everyone at NMC.

As the college works on recruiting more students to attend, it is hoped that this new system will help the college retain its students.

NMC reports that, as of Sep. 21, 2019, a total of 457 students and 57 faculty have used the new system and it is currently running with little to no errors.

NMC clarification

Northern Marianas College clarified yesterday a report in the Sep. 25, 2019, edition of Saipan Tribune regarding the completion status of the campus of Northern Marianas College. The headline stated "NMC campus 50% complete."

The college's Student Transition Center, a structure where students can study,

eat, and wait for classes to start, is at 50% completion. The rest of the campus is still undergoing repair.

Northern Marianas College is also in the process of securing federal funding for the construction of new facilities after 80% of its buildings were destroyed by Super Typhoon Yutu in October 2018. (PR)

Likely natural cause in shark's death

By IVA MAURIN
iva_maurin@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The CNMI Division of Fish and Wildlife quashed rumors circulating on social media yesterday about an alleged rash of dead sharks being found in CNMI waters, saying the recent dead shark sighting on Saipan is no cause for alarm.

The CNMI Division of Fish and Wildlife recovered yesterday a dead blacktip reef shark at the waters off the Governor Inos Peace Park.

In response to a call from a concerned citizen, DFW fisheries biologist Trey Dunn, with several DFW enforcement officers, went to the area and found the dead shark. A 7-foot tawny nurse shark was also present and was circling around the dead shark.

The dead shark was removed by DFW, and the healthy nurse shark swam away.

"We necropsied the dead 4-foot-8-inch blacktip reef shark and took some measurements and samples, and discovered that the shark was a healthy female and had recently given birth," Dunn said in a statement. "Blacktip reef sharks give birth to live young."

DFW also found some bite marks from the nurse shark, as well as a small puncture wound on the underside of the

blacktip shark.

"These injuries appeared to be post-mortem (after death). The cause of death could not be conclusively determined but was likely a natural death from a combination of stress from birth and other factors," Dunn said in the statement.

Both sharks are common within the Saipan Lagoon and nearshore reefs of the Northern Marianas.

"Neither species of shark is likely to be dangerous to humans without provocation. However, it is best not to swim where people are actively fishing especially with live bait," the DFW statement adds.

According to DFW, sharks may be attracted to fish feeding, dead fish, struggling fish, or bait. While sharks are not likely to bite humans, feeding them and other fish may encourage aggressive behavior and makes human bites more likely.

"Bites only occur when sharks are harassed or dead or dying fish are present. Your chances of being attacked by a shark are 1 in 11.5 million, which is much lower than your chances (1 in 2 million) of being involved in another beach-related fatality like drowning."

DFW also found some bite marks from the nurse shark, as well as a small puncture wound on the underside of the

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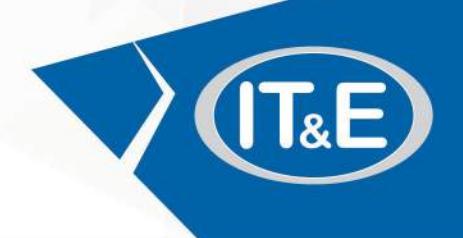
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TRUMP*From Page 1*

wanting to impeach Trump—launched a formal inquiry toward that end, accusing the president of “betrayal of his oath of office,” betrayal of national security and betrayal of the integrity of American elections.

Here's a look at the matter and what's known about what happens next:

NEXT STEPS

The House Judiciary Committee will be the panel responsible for recommending articles of impeachment against Trump if the inquiry leads it to do so.

Already, six House committees have been investigating various aspects of alleged impropriety by the president. They will continue to investigate, but on an expedited basis, though with no specific deadline.

If the Judiciary panel

backs impeachment articles, the matter goes to the full House for a vote. Democrats control the House and its committees.

If a majority of the full House votes for impeachment, the matter goes to the Senate, which is responsible for holding a trial, overseen by the U.S. Supreme Court chief justice. It takes a two-thirds vote in the Senate to force a president from office—a daunting challenge for Democrats if the effort goes that far, given Republican control of that chamber.

Impeaching a president is often misunderstood to mean his removal. It actually means the House has voted to bring one or more articles of impeachment and send the process forward. No president has been ousted by impeachment.

DEMOCRATS BREAK THEIR IMPASSE

Some Democrats in Congress have long wanted to

kick-start the constitutional process to remove Trump, despite the slim odds of success. But they lacked a critical mass and Pelosi's support.

Trump's machinations to avoid culpability from the Russia investigation fed into their push, but that inquiry came to an indistinct conclusion, with troubling episodes of presidential behavior uncovered by special counsel Robert Mueller but no charges recommended for obstructing justice or conspiring with Moscow in its audacious efforts to tip the 2016 U.S. election to Trump.

Trump's preelection payment to a porn actress to maintain her silence and apparent Trump Organization profiteering from his presidency also fueled impeachment sentiment from a segment of the party. But it took a whistleblower's still-secret complaint about Trump's dealings with Ukraine to change the landscape.

In a nutshell: There's

little doubt Trump pressed Ukraine to conduct a corruption investigation of Democratic presidential contender Joe Biden and his son—the president has defiantly stated that he did. He also acknowledged that days before a phone conversation with Ukraine's leader in July, he ordered military aid to Ukraine to be frozen.

The episode raises the possibility that a president used the power of his office to get a foreign government to help him win reelection. Trump denies doing or saying anything improper. But wavering Democrats, many of them freshmen from districts where Trump has enjoyed broad support, dropped their reluctance to proceed.

WHAT HAS CHANGED

Pelosi's buy-in on impeachment proceedings is a huge advance for advocates of that approach after the proceedings in the Judiciary Committee were mostly seen as

going nowhere. As well, Democrats believe the focus on Trump's dealings with the Ukrainian leader could resonate more than the Mueller report did.

In terms of congressional process, not much changes, at least at first. The judiciary panel had already begun impeachment hearings and had asked other committees for input. And it's not clear that Pelosi's “expedited” timeline will move things along any more quickly. The committee chairman, Rep. Jerrold Nadler of New York, has said he wants to make a decision on whether to recommend articles of impeachment by the end of the year.

THE LAST TIME THIS HAPPENED ...

You can find partisans during almost every administration who think the president of the opposing party should be thrown out of office between elections. But there hasn't been a serious effort to do that since the impeachment of Bill Clinton.

In 1998 and 1999, the House under Republican control pursued the impeachment of the Democratic president, primarily based on matters arising from his relationships with women outside his marriage.

The House approved an

allegation that Clinton “willfully provided perjurious, false and misleading testimony” before independent counsel Kenneth Starr's grand jury investigation. And it voted to bring forward the accusation that he “prevented, obstructed and impeded the administration of justice.” The Republican-controlled Senate acquitted him.

A RARITY IN HISTORY

Only two presidents have been impeached: Andrew Johnson in 1868 and Clinton. Both won acquittal in the Senate.

Richard Nixon, who was the subject of impeachment proceedings, resigned from office in 1974 when it looked certain that the House would impeach him and his prospects in the Senate appeared dire.

WORDS FROM THE CONSTITUTION

The Constitution gives the House “the sole power of impeachment” and the Senate “the sole power to try all impeachments.”

And it dictates the removal from office of an impeached president who is convicted by the Senate of “treason, bribery, or other high crimes and misdemeanors.” It is left to Congress to define such terms.

It is not clear yet, however, whether the Judiciary will pursue the same projects as originally planned for the USDA loan because of the extensive damage to Saipan and Tinian wrought by Super Typhoon Yutu in October 2018.

The original plan was that \$4.8 million of the \$12-million loan would go to the Settlement Fund as lump sum payment for the Judicial Building loan.

The Judicial building loan matured on March 1, 2015. Tang will present the report before U.S. District Court for the NMI designated Judge Frances Tydingco-Gatewood today, Thursday, at 9am.

She said the government has been exploring the possibility of obtaining a \$12 million loan with the U.S. Department of Agriculture to pay off the building loan and pay for other needed courthouse renovations.

Public Law 19-67 has already been passed to authorize the government to borrow from the USDA, but an amendment to this law is still under review by Gov. Ralph DLG Torres and the Guam USDA office, Tang said. She said this will allow the government to borrow from commercial lenders, which is a new requirement from USDA loan applicants. The loan has a low interest rate of 2.75%. Payment for the loan will be coming from the fines and fees collected by the Judiciary.

On Tinian, the courtroom was to be expanded; the Rota courthouse air-conditioner was supposed to be replaced.

The CNMI government was allowed to secure a loan from the NMI Retirement Fund through a Judicial Building Financing Act of 1994 in order to build the Judicial Complex. Construction began in 1995 and was completed in May 1998. The sources of repayment of this loan came from revenues generated by the Judiciary.

LIFE*From Page 1*

The CNMI data collected for 2018 consists of data from a two-year gap, from 2016 to 2018.

In its report, CHCC concluded that males live about three years less than females, with the males having a life expectancy of 74.4 years compared to the females' 77.4 years.

From 2013, which garnered the highest life expectancy at 76.5 years, up to this year saw

minor fluctuations and rises over the years.

Life expectancy, a statistical measure of the average time a person is expected to live based on birth year, current age and other demographic factors including gender. The most commonly used measure of life expectancy is at birth.

In recent years, the U.S. has seen overall life expectancy decrease from 78.7 years in 2015 to 78.6 years in 2017. An Associated Press report quotes experts as saying that the opioid addiction and an increase

in suicides are the main reason behind the U.S. seeing lower life expectancy rates.

The AP partnered with the National Center for Health Statistics, The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, The National Association for Public Health Statistics and Information Systems, and the National Center for Health Statistics to conduct the study. The group used six years of death records and demographic data to create a life expectancy estimate for almost all census tract in the U.S.

CHCC reports that the to-

tal number of deaths in 2018 was at 678 cases, just four cases fewer than 2017's 682. CHCC also reports that the leading causes of death in 2018 were non-communicable diseases at 431 total cases such as diseases of the circulatory system, neoplasms, endocrine, nutritional and metabolic diseases, and diseases of the respiratory system. The list continues on with other cases such as external causes of morbidity, certain infectious and parasitic diseases, and many more causes of death.

for everyone. I am...thankful to the U.S. Department of Homeland Security and the White House for their acceptance of our proposal for relief. The countless phone calls and meetings that have occurred over the past month with our federal partners have paid off,” he said.

Torres earlier asked USCIS acting director Ken Cuccinelli for an extension in a letter dated Aug. 26, 2019, after informing Cuccinelli that several employers on Saipan have reported a delay in USDOL processing.

Despite this grant of a temporary extension to qualified extension petitions, Torres recognizes that there is “much more to do.”

“...I am asking the entire business community to work diligently and submit every document needed on a timely basis,” he said. “My office and the CNMI Department of Labor stand ready to assist anyone that needs additional information and assistance.”

CW-1*From Page 1*

considering the request even if it is received after the CW-1 petition's validity expires.

Had USCIS not granted the extension, the work permits of almost all foreign workers in the CNMI would expire on Sept. 30, 2019. That would require them to exit the CNMI and await the approval of their work permits in their home country, which could take weeks or months away from work.

The new deadline of Nov. 1, 2019, would only take effect if the specific petition is properly filed and includes an approved Temporary Labor Certificate with a starting date on or after Oct. 1, 2019; if USCIS receives the petition no later than 30 days after the date of TLC approval or before Nov. 1, 2019, whichever is earliest; and if the expiration date of the currently approved petition is on or after Sept. 1, 2019.

If an employer files [a

CW renewal] meeting these requirements, the CW-1 worker may continue employment with the same employer for up to 240 days beginning on the expiration of the authorized period of stay, pending adjudication of the petition,” USCIS noted in its announcement, adding that this would include cases where there is a change of employer and USCIS adjudication is pending.

“USCIS is providing this one-time, limited accommodation to facilitate the initial implementation of the new requirement that CW-1 petitions with employment start dates on or after Oct. 1, 2019, include a Temporary Labor Certification [or TLC] approved by the U.S. Department of Labor,” USCIS announced in a statement.

USCIS would normally reject the renewal of a worker's nonimmigrant status if it were filed after a worker's nonimmigrant status expires. New USDOL regulatory requirements would only let USCIS ac-

cept CW-1 petition renewals for fiscal year 2020 with an approved TLC from the labor agency.

The TLC, which has to be issued by USDOL, is a new process and the timeline for getting it remains unknown and mostly varying per case, causing an unanticipated delay in CW-1 renewal processing times for fiscal year 2020.

“...USCIS has the discretion

to excuse a late filing for [CW renewal]

petitions on limited circumstances.

USCIS has determined that it is appropriate

on a one-time basis, to ex-

ercise its authority to excuse

late filings of CW-1 peti-

tions,” USCIS said.

Citing the USDOL data,

Delegate Gregorio Kilili C.

Sablan (Ind-MP) noted in

a statement yesterday that

there are 2,536 applications for TLCs, covering 7,217 workers, that are still pending as of Monday.

In a social media post

yesterday, Gov. Ralph DLG

Torres acknowledged that

“it has been a difficult time



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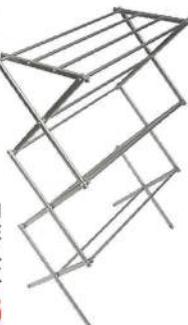
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Tabletop exercise on Saipan focuses on mass rescue ops

U.S. Coast Guard Sector Guam coordinated a Mass Rescue Operation tabletop exercise for emergency responders on Saipan last Sept. 18.

The day-long training, held at the CNMI Homeland Security Emergency Management Emergency Operations Center, brought together federal, local, public, and government agencies to exercise mass rescue operation capabilities.

"It is important to exercise the coordination of mass rescue operations with our partners," said Denise Cruz, Coast Guard Sector Guam emergency management specialist. "The exercise brought together local, federal, private, and non-governmental organizations to

discuss procedures and techniques required to coordinate and execute a successful maritime search and rescue operation. Our number one priority is to save lives, and for that; we must understand each agency's capabilities. Getting to know who we work with and how to work together defines the term 'One Marianas.'

As a result of the 1912 sinking of the *Titanic*, the world's maritime nations developed a framework to promote minimum safety standards for merchant and passenger vessels. Coupled with that prevention effort is a response framework to support the effective rescue of multiple passengers and crew. As illustrated by the re-



U.S. Coast Guard Station Apra Harbor participates in a coordinated Mass Rescue Operations exercise for emergency responders on Saipan last Sept. 18, 2019.

U.S. COAST GUARD/SECTOR GUAM

sponders in this exercise, the operation extends to aviation in areas with coastal communities and high air traffic.

"The biggest challenge for a MRO is the remoteness,"

said Lt. Cmdr. Victoria Saxon, Sector Guam emergency management/force readiness chief. "Throughout the region, we have many areas with limited response capabilities. It can be several hours or days for an air or surface asset to arrive on scene. That's why regional partnerships and the use of the Automated Mutual Assistance Vessel Rescue System, a volunteer commercial vessel search and rescue resource is so important."

Participants worked across jurisdictions and authorities utilizing the Incident Command System to exercise operational and logistical response plans. The emergency operations center was activated during the exercise, just as it would be in a real event.

Federal, state, military, and

civilian emergency responders from CNMI and Guam participated in a day long course led by the U.S. Coast Guard.

Participating agencies included:

- CNMI Homeland Security Emergency Management
- CNMI Customs
- United Airlines
- American Red Cross
- Federal Aviation Administration
- Pacific Oriental Inc. Aviation
- T'way Air Co.
- Asiana Airlines Inc.
- Commonwealth Ports Authority
- Airport Aircraft Rescue and Fire Fighting
- Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Services
- Marianas Visitors Authority
- Coast Guard 14th District and Coast Guard Sector Guam

"This joint service and multi-agency exercise with our partners in the CNMI was an excellent opportunity to maximize our combined readiness to respond to mass rescue operations throughout the region," said Cmdr. Joshua Empen, deputy sector commander, Coast Guard Sector Guam. (PR)



Members of U.S. Coast Guard Sector Guam and partners stand for a photo on Saipan on Sept. 18, 2019. The team coordinated a Mass Rescue Operations tabletop exercise for emergency responders to safeguard lives.

U.S. COAST GUARD/SECTOR GUAM

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation Office of the Executive Director



INVITATION FOR BIDS CUC-IFB-19-024

W-6 Sewer Lift Station Elimination

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed bids from qualified firms for the W-6 Sewer Lift Station Elimination in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. The project consists of the installation of gravity sewer main, new service laterals, connection to existing laterals, the abandonment of existing sewer manholes, and the elimination of the old W-5 wet well and the W-6 sewer lift station.

The project is funded by a grant from the United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) and CUC. The award of this project is contingent upon receipt of approval for project award from USEPA.

CUC requires the project to be completed in 270 calendar days from date of award of contract.

Prospective Bidders for this IFB must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The IFB package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of \$100.00 for one IFB package set.

A Pre-Bid Conference followed by site visits will be held on September 12, 2019 at 10:00 AM (ChST) at the CUC Main Conference Room, 3rd Floor, Room No. 7, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building.

One (1) Original and Five (5) Hard Copies of the bid must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "CUC-IFB-19-024, W-6 Sewer Lift Station Elimination" to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than 10:00 AM (ChST) on September 27, 2019, at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Bids mailed via postal or courier service must be received on or before due date and time or post-marked before due date and time. Bid shall be submitted on the provided Bid Forms. Bidders are required to complete all Bid Forms. Bidders may supplement this form as appropriate. Bids will be required to be submitted under a condition of irrevocability for a period of 60 days after submission. Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered.

A Bid Guarantee of fifteen percent (15%) of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The bid guarantee may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety or other surety acceptable to the Attorney General. A Performance Bond of one hundred percent (100%) of the total proposal price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful bidders. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands or otherwise secured in a manner satisfactory to CUC. A Payment Bond of one hundred percent (100%) of the total proposal price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful bidders. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands or otherwise secured in a manner satisfactory to CUC, for the protection of all persons supplying labor and material to the contractor or its subcontractors for the performance of the work provided for in the contract.

All insurers question, concerns and qualification should be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). Bidders are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.

All bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid under the contract. Bidders are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations.

This Invitation for Bids does not commit CUC to the award of a contract or contracts, nor to pay any cost incurred in the preparation and submission of bids in anticipation of a contract. The award of a contract may be contingent upon the Commonwealth Public Utilities Commission's (CPUC) approval. If CPUC approval is required, the contract will not be executed by CUC until such approval is provided. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations. The contractor shall be required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from pre-registered bidders and must be submitted in writing no later than 10:00 AM (ChST) on September 16, 2019 to Mr. Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrator, via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org, with a copy to Larry Manacop, Water/Wastewater Engineer via email at larry.manacop@cucgov.org, Nicolette Villagomez, Water/Wastewater Engineer via email at nicolette.villagomez@cucgov.org, and Ms. Christie Sablan, Purchasing Technician, Senior, via email address at christie.sablan@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids for any reason and waive any defects in said bid proposal, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

GARY P. CAMACHO
Executive Director

MANNY BOYER SABLÁN
Purchasing Administrator

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation Office of the Executive Director



REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS CUC-RFP-19-037

FINANCIAL AND COMPLIANCE AUDIT FOR FISCAL YEAR ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2019, 2020 & 2021

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) requires the services of a U.S. Certified Public Accounting Firm/Individual with knowledge, skill, and experience in auditing (1) financial statements in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles and auditing standards of the U.S. and; (2) federal awards programs in accordance with the Single Audit Act and U.S. Office of Management and Budget requisites

- Provide assistance to the CUC management with the preparation of the annual financial statements in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America
- Ensure that the financial statements and auditor's reports also meet any specific requirements contained in agreements or other contractual requirements relative to financial statement presentation and the audits.
- Submit the draft financial statements and accompanying auditor's reports to CUC management no later than January 31st of each year, and issue the final reports no later than February 28th of each year.
- Provide 15 bound copies of the final financial statements and accompanying auditor's report
- Provide an electronic copy (e.g., .pdf format) of the final report to the CUC.

The date of contract award will be no later than November 22, 2019. Auditors are responsible to review the 2019, 2020 & 2021 financial statements to include the physical CUC assets for each fiscal year.

The RFP package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of \$100.00 for one RFP package set.

One (1) original and five (5) hard copies, along with an electronic copy of the proposal on a compact disk in PDF format must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "CUC-RFP-19-037, Financial and Compliance Audit for Fiscal Year Ending September 30, 2019, 2020 & 2021" to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than October 15, 2019 at 10:00 AM (ChST). A copy of the submission, in PDF, must also be emailed to the addresses as noted in the RFP. Late submissions and conditional proposals will not be considered.

Discussions may be conducted with responsible offerors who submit proposals determined to be reasonably susceptible of being selected for award for the purpose of clarification and to ensure full understanding of and responsiveness to solicitation requirements. Offerors shall be accorded fair and equal treatment with respect to any opportunity to discuss and revision of proposals, and such revision may be permitted after submission and prior to award for the purpose of obtaining the best and final offers. During discussions, there will be no disclosure of any information derived from proposals submitted by competing offerors.

All Offeror are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the Offeror due to lack of information or understanding of the proposal requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a proposal or supply under the contract. The RFP does not commit CUC to award a contract, to pay any cost incurred in the preparation of the proposal under this request, or to procure or contract for services. Offeror are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed as per the CUC Procurement Regulations.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from pre-registered prospective proposers and must be submitted in writing no later than 10:00 AM (ChST) on September 30, 2019 to Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrator, via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org, with a copy to Greg Cruz, CUC Chief Financial Officer, via email address greg.cruz@cucgov.org and Christie Sablan, CUC Purchasing Assistant via email address christie.sablan@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all proposals for any reason and to waive any defects in said proposal, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All proposals shall become the property of CUC.

GARY P. CAMACHO
Executive Director

MANNY BOYER SABLÁN
Purchasing Administrator

'Love always wins in the Marianas'

By IVA MAURIN
iva_maurin@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Yesterday's proclamation of the week of Sept. 23-27, 2019, as CNMI Ally Week had one resounding message: that love always wins in the Marianas.

Lt. Gov. Arnold I. Palacios stressed this as he called on the islands to commemorate the important progress and remarkable advancements made by the LGBTQ+ youth

and their allies to create safe schools for all students.

"I commend this youth-led awareness efforts of Ally Week to ensure and promote that each member of every school is valued, respected, and inclusive of sexual orientation, gender identity, and gender expression," Palacios said. "The Commonwealth is stronger and much more vibrant because of the diversity of our people and alliances."

The proclamation also recognized that despite the progress made in expanding the rights of the gay, community, both locally and nationally, there are still a lot to be done to support safe school efforts, to increase peer advocacy, and to raise awareness to strengthen these efforts.

Dr. Bobby Cruz, PSS director of Instruction Technology, spoke of the importance of the proclamation in terms of ad-

vancing human rights on the island, especially for members of the community who still live in fear of being rejected for who they truly are.

"We have youth in this room, who I am so proud of, because you are all at the forefront of this movement to advance human rights in our Marianas," Cruz said.

"We are also here together today, because there's a number of individuals who can't

be here, young individuals who are still so desperately hoping for a reprieve from fear, and are so desperately hoping for a time when the world that they live in, where this community that they live in, would give them the opportunity to be truly who they are without fear of rejection.

Kyle Thorne, president of the Marianas High School Pride Club, and inspirational speaker at the proclamation, shared how a friend helped him in his journey of discov-

ering himself and in accepting who he is.

"To this day, her words echo," Thorne said. "Now, I'm surrounded by people every day, who urge me to be my true self. I sincerely hope that everyone going through what I went through will have someone as caring, concerned and amazing as she is."

Ally Week is a youth-led effort across the nation that encourages all students to stand against the bullying of, and be allies with, the LGBTQ+ members of the community.

TSL Foundation applauds company promoting local culture

The Tan Siu Lin Foundation selected Tahine's TV Production as the winner of the Champion Investor Award at the inaugural Saipan Chamber of Commerce Pitchfest for promoting the local culture.

Owned by the husband-and-wife tandem of Vicente and Tanya Salas, Tahine's TV Production was among the eight finalists in last month's Pitchfest, which the chamber organized to give entrepreneurs an opportunity to share their ideas with a panel of judges and an audience and win seed money to grow or launch their business.

Vicente Salas said Tahine's services include having clients wear indigenous/cultural outfits and immersing themselves in role-playing scenes about the traditional day-to-day life unique to the Marianas. The experience, which is available for both tourists and residents, is documented in photos and videos.

"There is an absence of a cultural experience tourism service in the local market that specifically allows custom-

ers to immerse themselves in Marianas culture by dressing up in indigenous cultural attire for photo shoots. This type of tourism experience is prevalent in many other countries in the Pacific, Middle East and the continental U.S., particularly the southwestern states, where they are referred to as 'old timey' or 'old Western' themed photo shoots," Vicente said.

"It's high time we have an '*antes na tiempo*' (Chamorro phrase for ancient times) themed photo and video service out here in the Marianas. We created a platform for locals and tourists alike to capture and eternally relive in pictures the timeless and priceless experience of authentic indigenous Chamorro and Carolinian cultures, and even elements of contemporary Marianas culture," added Tanya Salas, who also owns a fashion company that makes and sells traditional jewelry and accessories.

The TSL Foundation, the charitable arm of TanHoldings, believes that Tahine's



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Vicente, third right, and Tanya Salas, second right, join TanHoldings executives and employees and Tahine's TV Production models for a group photo during the awards presentation in last month's inaugural Saipan Chamber of Commerce Pitchfest at the Hyatt Regency Saipan.

TV Production not only offers tourists a unique cultural experience in the Marianas, but also encourages the promotion and preservation of the islands' local culture.

"We have a very rich cul-

ture and it's a great concept integrating models in indigenous attire into video footage and photographs to highlight our local heritage," said TanHoldings Corporate Affairs' Community Relations director

Carline Sablan.

"We congratulate Tahine's TV Production for winning the Champion Investor Award. We hope that this award will help take the business to the next level," she added. "It was

quite evident from the presentations that the finalists have the energy and passion to pursue their dreams of becoming entrepreneurs. We look forward to next year's great business ideas." (PR)

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USDOL awards NMI \$1.8M in disaster recovery funding

The U.S. Department of Labor awarded an additional \$1,841,563 for a Disaster Recovery National Dislocated Worker Grant to the CNMI Department of Labor's Workforce Investment Agency yesterday.

The funds will allow grant participants to continue disaster-relief cleanup efforts resulting from Typhoons Mangkhut and Super Typhoon Yutu, which occurred in September and October 2018, respectively. The funding will also provide employment and training services to eligible grant participants.

"We are very grateful to USDOL for the additional assistance for our workforce, which took a major hit during this recovery, as well as the hard work of our CNMI DOL staff led by...[Labor Secretary] Vicky Benavente," said Gov. Ralph DLG Torres yesterday. "This recovery has not stopped, as we are still doing debris removal on Tinian and clearing areas for rebuilding of new homes. We need to all come together and work toward restoring our islands by helping those who are also trying to find work or gainful employment during recovery."

In the aftermath of the typhoons, the Federal Emergency Management Agency issued major disaster declarations for each storm that enabled the Commonwealth to request federal assistance for storm recovery. In October 2018, the department approved up to \$2,762,345, with \$920,782 awarded initially,

to assist with cleanup and recovery efforts in three island municipalities included in the declarations: Rota, Saipan, and Tinian. This award brings total funding for this project to

the full approved amount.

"We have been working hard to assist our valued workforce and organizations as we are all affected by these typhoons. We will continue to look out for our businesses and employees during this re-

covery period, and we thank our partners at USDOL for awarding these funds," said Benavente.

Supported by the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act of 2014, Dislocated Worker Grants temporarily expand

the service capacity of dislocated worker training and employment programs at the state and local levels by providing funding assistance in response to large, unexpected economic events that cause significant job losses. (PR)

FEMA and OAG partner to provide legal assistance to Yutu survivors

The Federal Emergency Management Agency's Office of Chief Counsel and the CNMI Office of the Attorney General have partnered to implement a unique FEMA-funded Expanded Disaster Legal Services program for the CNMI.

The EDLS program is 100% federally-funded by FEMA, and provides survivors with legal assistance to help resolve landownership issues, which are preventing survivors from participating in FEMA's Permanent Housing Construction program for Super Typhoon Yutu. The PHC program provides 100% federally-funded repairs or new construction for survivors' homes from a FEMA contractor.

The Office of the Attorney General is overseeing the EDLS program. The OAG pairs CNMI-licensed attorneys with survivors to assist with resolving landownership issues.

Families who would be ineligible for PHC because they

cannot prove legal title can choose to receive legal counsel, paid for by FEMA, to resolve landownership issues so they can be reviewed for eligibility in the PHC program. Generally, there are three types of cases: survey/deed preparation from a surviving landowner, simple probate, and complex probate. There is no cost to survivors for these legal services.

FEMA attorney Linda Litke said, "The amount of support and partnership from the CNMI Attorney General's Office, the CNMI Judiciary, and the CNMI Bar [Association] has been instrumental in creating this brand-new program for FEMA. The unique landownership laws in the CNMI and common issues with lack of landownership documen-

VALOR program on Saipan seeks volunteers

whose primary residence was damaged by Yutu.

We are asking for volunteers to help survivors conduct repairs, so their homes are a safe place to reside. Volunteers are encouraged to bring tools such as a tape measure, hammer, handsaw, screwdrivers (Phillip and flathead), drills, and other tools that will be beneficial to the project. Volunteers should also wear appropriate attire for construction work: close-toed shoes, gloves, etc.

The CNMI-FEMA VALOR Program will be providing repair materials, some tools, and equipment to the project sites.

Volunteer with the CNMI-VALOR program by calling Lee Tenorio at (670) 234-6208. Kick-off meeting starts at 8am the mayor's office. Then we will conduct housing repairs on a property located in Chalan Kiya until 3:30pm.

VALOR repairs are limited to windows, doors, electrical, plumbing, accessibility needs, and roofing damages caused by Super Typhoon Yutu. You may qualify for the CNMI-FEMA VALOR Program, regardless of citizenship, if you have not previously received Small Business Administration funding or FEMA assistance for home repairs related to this disaster. Contact cnmi-valor@fema.dhs.gov to verify if you are eligible for repairs through VALOR. (PR)

Water outage in San Roque, Achugao, Tanapag

There will be a scheduled water service interruption on Friday, Sept. 27, 2019, from 8:30am to 3:30pm for the areas of San Roque, Achugao, and Tanapag. Customers of the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. in these areas should expect restoration of water services soon after.

The purpose of the scheduled water service interruption is to allow CUC's water operations personnel to perform repairs on a damaged main service lateral located on the outer southbound lane north of the power substation on Chalan Pale Arnold Road in San Roque.

For the safety of our men and women working at this site, motorists are advised to proceed with caution and take alternative routes when traveling by the area.

CUC continues to work diligently to minimize any inconvenience to its customers. For more information, contact the CUC Customer Call Center (664-4282) or monitor its Facebook page for the latest updates (<http://www.facebook.com/CommonwealthUtilitiesCorporation/>). (PR)

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation
INVITATION TO BID (ITB)
ITB19-CHCC/IT-BEH-004

SUBMISSION DEADLINE: OCTOBER 21, 2019 **TIME: 10:00 AM**

"IT EQUIPMENT - COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION - INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY/BUREAU OF ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH"

INTERESTED PARTIES CAN DOWNLOAD THIS REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP)/INVITATION TO BID (ITB) FROM THE CHCC WEBSITE (WWW.CHCC.GOV.MP). ONCE AT THE SITE, NAVIGATE TO REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS TAB ON THE LEFT NAVIGATION BAR. CLICK ON THE URL FOR THIS RFP/ITB. YOU WILL BE REQUIRED TO ENTER DATA TO ALLOW US TO TRACK ALL REQUESTS FOR THIS OPPORTUNITY.

THE CHCC RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL PROPOSAL AND TO WAIVE ANY IMPERFECTIONS IN ANY PROPOSAL, IF TO DO SO SHALL BE IN THE INTEREST OF THE CHCC. ALL PROPOSALS SHALL BECOME THE EXCLUSIVE PROPERTY OF THE COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION.

/S/ ESTHER L. MUNA
CHCC CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

/S/ CORAZON P. ADA
CHCC DIRECTOR OF P&S

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INVITATION FOR BIDS
ITB19-GOV-129
Rota High School Renovation and Conversion to Office Spaces

Governor Ralph DLG. Torres, and Lt. Governor Arnold I. Palacios, through the 702 Capital Improvement Project (CIP) funded by Office of Insular Affairs, U.S. Department of Interior, (collectively, "Commonwealth") are soliciting sealed bids for the Rota High School Renovation and Conversion to Office Spaces on Rota, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI).

The project package will be available on September 12, 2019 at the Office of Management & Budget, Office of the Governor, Juan A. Sablan Administration Building in Capitol Hill, Saipan. All interested bidders are required to include an Insurer Certification Clearance (ICC) in their bid packages in order to bid on this project. The ICC should be obtained at the Department of Commerce, Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC) on Capitol Hill.

Bidding procedures shall be in full compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations, as revised through May 24, 2001 and with the Northern Mariana Islands Administrative Code (NMIAC) §70-30-3-725 Gratuities and Kickbacks and §70-30-3-730 Prohibition Against Contingent Fees. All wage rates for employees performing the work, labor and services on this project shall be paid at the current U.S. prevailing wage rates established for the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

There will be a pre-bid conference for this project on **Thursday, September 19, 2019, 10:00 am ChST** at the project site in Songsong Village, Rota, CNMI. Questions concerning this project shall be directed to Ms. Nerissa Benavente in writing by e-mail: nerissa.cip@gmail.com, on or before **Wednesday, September 25, 2019** to the Capital Improvement Program, Office of the Governor, Juan A. Sablan Administration Building, Capitol Hill, Saipan, or fax (670) 664-2408. All responses to inquiries will be shared with all prospective bidders.

Sealed bids must be marked **ITB19-GOV-129 Rota High School Renovation and Conversion to Office Spaces**. For bidders within the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be submitted to the Director of Procurement and Supply located at the former Emergency Management Office, Building No. 1301, Ascension Drive, Capitol Hill on Saipan no later than **10:00 a.m. ChST October 15, 2019**. Bidders located outside of the CNMI may obtain an additional seven (7) working days for receipt of their bids by submitting a Notice of Intent to Bid. Notices of Intent to Bid must be received by the Director of Procurement & Supply no later than **10:00 a.m. ChST October 15, 2019** and must be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515, or via e-mail to procurement@cnmidol.net. For bidders located outside the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than October 15, 2019 and the bid documents must be received no later than **October 24, 2019**. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a bid.

Bids will be publicly open and read at the Division of Procurement and Supply located at the former Emergency Management Office, Building No. 1301, Ascension Drive, Capitol Hill on Saipan at **10:30 a.m. ChST October 28, 2019**. However, if no notices of intent to bid are received from bidders outside the CNMI, bids will be open at **10:00 a.m. ChST October 15, 2019**.

For bids greater than Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars (\$25,000.00) a bid security of fifteen percent (15%) of the bid amount must accompany the bid. Bid security shall be on a bid bond, in cash, by certified check, cashier's check or other form acceptable to the government. A surety company shall hold the certificate of authority from the U.S. Secretary of the Treasury as an acceptable surety or other surety acceptable to the Attorney General. Checks must be made payable to the CNMI Treasurer, with the name of the bidder and a notation on the face of the check: "Credit Account No. 44660". If a bid bond is submitted it must be accompanied by an Insurer Clearance Certification (ICC).

The bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be subject to a responsibility determination in conformance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations Section 70-30-3-245. The responsible bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be awarded a contract with the CNMI Government and will be required to deliver Performance and Payment bonds, each equal to 100% of the contract price for contracts greater than \$25,000.00.

Prior to the execution of the contract, the selected contractor shall submit:

- A current license from the bonding company showing that it has authority to issue bond in the CNMI and
- A certification from the bonding company that the unencumbered value of its assets (exclusive of all outstanding commitments on other bond obligations) exceeds the penal amount of each bond.

A contractor submitting an unacceptable payment or performance bond may be permitted a reasonable time, as determined by the P&S Director, to substitute an acceptable bond prior to executing a contract. Acceptable assets are only:

- 1) Cash
- 2) US Government Securities
- 3) Stocks and Bonds traded on US Security Exchange
- 4) Real Property owned in fee simple in US; and
- 5) Irrevocable Letters of Credit

Performance time for completion of this project is One Hundred Eighty (180) calendar days upon issuance of Notice to Proceed. The daily amount of liquidated damages shall be two percent (2%) of the contract price divided by 180 calendar days, the contract time and will be accessed as delays beyond the established completion date.

All bid documents received shall become the sole property of the CNMI Government. The Government reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to waive any imperfection in a bid proposal that does not affect the elements of price, quantity, and delivery of the bid, in the best interest of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

/s/ Ralph DLG. Torres
Governor

/s/ Herman S. Sablan, Director
CNMI Procurement & Supply

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL
RFP NO.: RFP19-GOV-136

SUBMISSION DATE: OCTOBER 15, 2019 TIME: 09:30 A.M.

"MULTI-DISCIPLINARY PROFESSIONAL ADVISORY SERVICES FOR THE OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR, COMMONWEALTH BUREAU OF MILITARY AFFAIRS"

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/S/ RALPH DLG. TORRES
GOVERNOR

/S/ FRANCISCO C. AGUON
ACTING DIRECTOR, P&S

/S/ GLENN SP REYES
SA, MILITARY AFFAIRS

Media consultant named Marianas intern



Alex Liu, right, receives his award as 2019 Intern to the Marianas on Aug. 21, 2019, in Taipei, Taiwan, from Marianas Visitors Authority Taiwan country manager Milane Tsai. Liu, a media consultant, bested over 350 other contestants in the competition and will work with the MVA over the next year to promote the Marianas in Taiwan.

A 56-year-old media consultant from Taiwan has been named as the 2019 Intern to the Marianas, earning the opportunity to explore the islands and work with the Marianas Visitors Authority to promote the destination in Taiwan over the next year.

Alex Liu was selected from among 355 contestants who entered this year's Intern to the Marianas contest, besting three finalists in the final judging portion in August 2019 in Taipei.

Based on his video entry, Liu was voted No. 1 in public online voting conducted in July 2019. The final judging portion held last week at Amazing Hall in Taipei was a

live interview on-stage, where Liu was also voted No. 1 by a panel of judges.

"Since we started the Intern to the Marianas contest in Taiwan five years ago, it has continued to generate a lot of online buzz and media coverage for the Marianas," said MVA managing director Priscilla M. Iakopo. "After all, who wouldn't love the opportunity to work and play in this beautiful destination. We look forward to welcoming Alex on his first visit to the Marianas and to working with him."

As Intern to the Marianas, Liu will work with the MVA's Taiwan office to help promote the Marianas to the public in Taiwan. (PR)

Some 100 tour partners take part in Busan MVA seminar

The Marianas Visitors Authority held the Marianas Seminar in Busan last Sept. 4, 2019, to promote the destination.

Approximately 100 travel agents, land operators, airlines, and industry partners attended the event to receive updates on the market and learn about the MVA's upcoming marketing plans in Korea.

The event was joined by 10 industry partners: Jeju

Air, Saipan World Resort, Hyatt Regency Saipan, Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan, Kanoa Resort, Century Hotel, Grandvrio Resort Saipan, DFS, Alamo, and Hertz.

Rep. Joseph "Lee" Guerrero, chairman of the CNMI House Tourism Committee, and MVA managing director Priscilla M. Iakopo both offered welcoming remarks to attendees to open the seminar. Ellen Lee, MVA Travel Trade marketing manager, provided

airline updates for 2019, 2019 B2B and B2C programs with marketing videos, and general information on the Marianas. Marianas partners also introduced their properties and businesses and provided updates on their services.

"Marianas Seminars in our major source markets are a key activity that allows our MVA team to share the information on our destination with travel agents," said Iakopo. "The Busan seminar

also gave agents in region the opportunity to dialogue directly and in person with the MVA and our Marianas partners and gain current travel information, which can help them in selling Marianas tour products."

A raffle drawing at the end of the event awarded two air tickets to Saipan, five hotel stay certificates, six DFS shopping coupon, and six rental cars certificates provided by Marianas tourism partners. (PR)



Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands State Rehabilitation Council & Statewide Independent Living Council "Yes I Can!"

P.O. Box 501521 Saipan, MP 96950 • Tel.: (670) 322-6537 • Fax: (670) 322-6548
TTY (670) 322-6449 • E-Mail: nmidir@ovrgov.net



PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to 1 CMC §9910, the State Rehabilitation Council and Statewide Independent Living Council will jointly hold their FY 2019 Fourth General Membership Meeting on Monday, September 30, 2019 from 4:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m. at the Kanoa Resort – Latte Stone Room

Interested individuals are welcome to attend.

AGENDA

- I. Call to Order
- II. Roll Call
- III. Review and Adoption of Agenda of September 30, 2019
- IV. Review and Adoption of Minutes:
 - A. SRC Third General Membership Meeting Minutes of September 18, 2019
 - B. SILC Third General Membership Meeting Minutes of August 23, 2019
- V. Reports
 - A. SRC Chairperson
 - B. Quality Assurance/Quality Improvement Committee Chairperson
 - C. Employment and Marketing Committee Chairperson
 - D. Transition and Assistive Technology Committee Chairperson
 - E. SILC Chairperson
 - F. CLI Executive Director
 - G. OVR Director
- VI. Action Items
 - A. Review and Adoption of SRC FY 2020 Resource Plan
 - B. Review and Adoption of SILC FY 2020 Resource Plan
 - C. SRC Election of Officers
 - D. SILC Election of Officers
- VII. Consumer Forum
- VIII. Miscellaneous/Announcements
- IX. Adjournment

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), individuals who wish to attend the meeting but require accommodation such as large print or sign language interpreter, are asked to call Elvira Seman at 322-6537/38 (voice) or 322-6549 (TTY), no later than 4:30 pm today, September 26, 2019.

/s/ FRANCES TORRES
SRC Chairperson

/s/ GERNADINE CAMACHO
SILC Chairperson

Publication of this notice is paid for by Federal funds made possible by a grant from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS)/Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services (OSERS), Administration for Community Living (ACL).



NMPASI

NORTHERN MARIANAS PROTECTION & ADVOCACY SYSTEMS, INC.

NMPASI hereby seeks comments and/or suggestions from the community on how to improve upon its proposed Statement of Goals and Priorities for fiscal year 2019 as follows:

Statement of Goals and Priorities [Fiscal Year 2020]

GOAL 1: In fiscal year 2020, NMPASI will provide legally-based advocacy services on behalf of individuals with disabilities and their families in the CNMI.

Priority 1.1: In fiscal year 2020, NMPASI will facilitate appropriate advocacy and provide direct representation for (at least one more than FY 2019) eligible individuals with disabilities in the community.

Priority 1.2: In fiscal year 2020, NMPASI personnel will facilitate sufficient technical assistance to individuals with disabilities, family members of individuals with disabilities and other members of the general community at large.

Priority 1.3: In fiscal year 2020, NMPASI personnel will facilitate appropriate representation for un/underserved individuals with disabilities (including but not limited to those living in institutions or other housing facilities).

GOAL 2: In fiscal year 2020, NMPASI personnel will advance the understanding of and appreciation for protection & advocacy services and other disability-related issues in the CNMI.

Priority 2.1: In fiscal year 2020, NMPASI personnel will facilitate opportunities for the community to engage in learning about disability-related issues.

Priority 2.2: In fiscal year 2020, NMPASI personnel will promote the understanding of local and federal disability laws.

Priority 2.3: In fiscal year 2020, NMPASI personnel will foster local capacity in self-advocacy for individuals with disabilities.

GOAL 3: To enhance the quality of protection & advocacy services and the efficiency of the organization's operations.

Priority 3.1: Maintain an efficient, effective, and legally-compliant administrative operation.

Priority 3.2: Maintain an effective, diverse, and knowledgeable staff and board of directors.

Priority 3.3: Ensure sufficient and sustainable funding in support of organization's mission.

To submit comments and/or suggestions, please contact **NMPASI** at 235-7273/4 or at www.nmpasi.org

*NMPASI, a local non-profit organization, administers grant funds from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS)/Center for Mental Health Services (CMHS)/Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), the Administration on Developmental Disabilities (ADD), and the Human Resources Services Administration (HRSA), the U.S. Department of Education (DOE)/Rehabilitation Services Administration (RSA), and the Social Security Administration (SSA).

Opinion

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EDITORIAL

Navy's startling UFO videos keep earthlings guessing

For millennia, humankind has looked to the heavens. We have gazed in wonder, searched for inspiration, and let loose our imagination about things we cannot now, and might never, see.

So what now to think about the objects captured on three videos by the U.S. Navy? The videos were leaked in 2017 and 2018, and can be viewed online, but the Navy last week finally confirmed them and, somewhat disquietingly, admitted it has no idea what the objects are. It calls them "unidentified aerial phenomena," not unidentified flying objects, a nod perhaps to the old term's stigma of wackiness. What the videos reveal are Navy pilots encountering flying objects they cannot identify, moving in ways no one inside or outside the government has been able to explain. The objects are cloudy yet mesmerizing, tiny dots sowing enormous and fundamental questions.

Where did they come from? Are they using technology of which we can't conceive? Are they being piloted by life-forms we cannot begin to understand?

The videos were shot by Navy pilots in 2004 and 2015. A 2017 story by The New York Times about one encounter included the federal government's first-ever acknowledgement of the secret Advanced Aerospace Threat Identification Program. Mull the term—"threat identification."

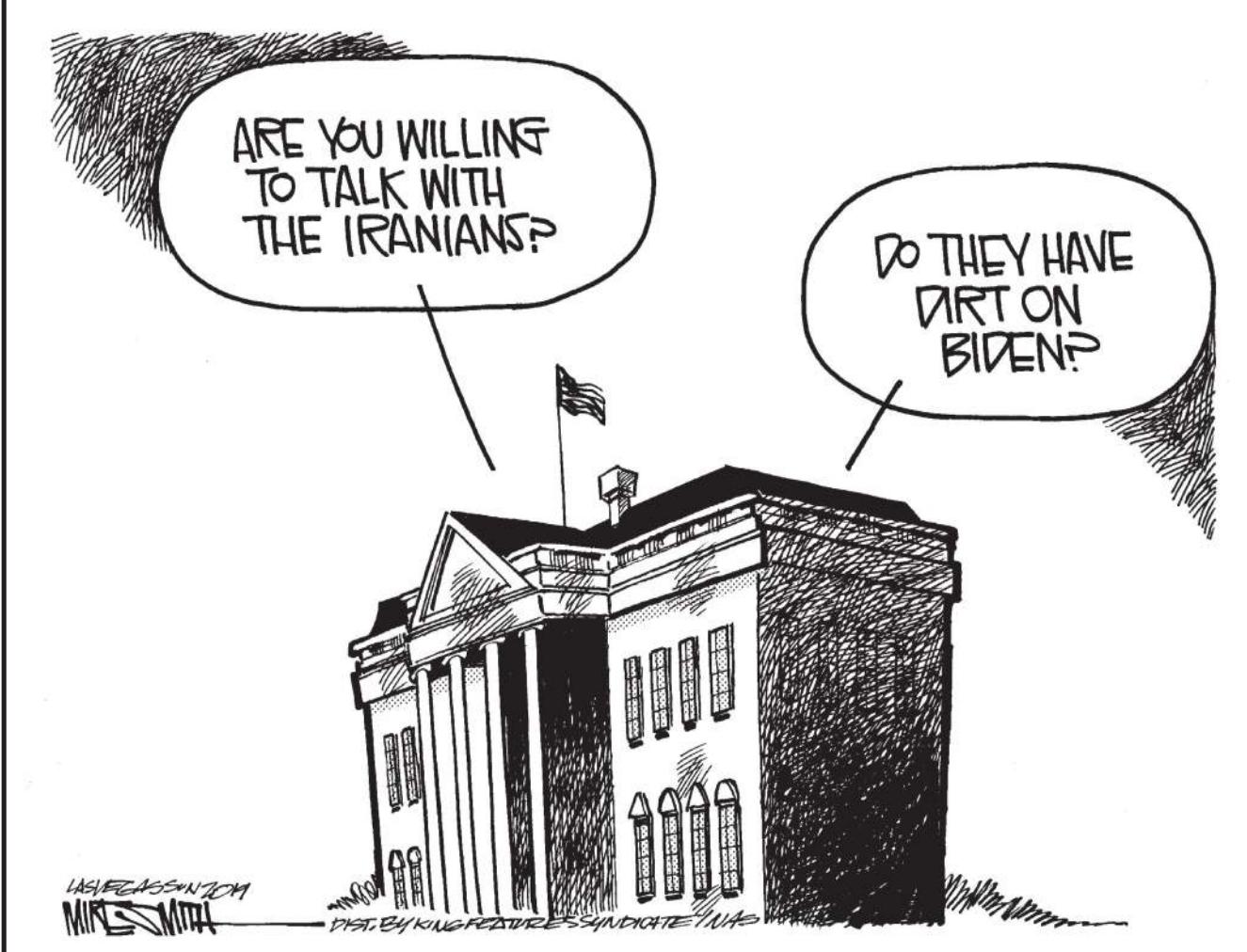
In the videos, astonished crews debate what the objects are and where they came from. "There's a whole fleet of them!" one voice says in one video, and then: "They're all going against the wind, that wind is 120 miles (per hour) to the west!" But the best summary is a stunned: "What the (expletive) is that thing?"

The craft seem to do things no human-made craft can, like suddenly appearing at an altitude of 80,000 feet, hurtling down to 20,000 feet, hovering, then shooting back up to 80,000 feet. They are shockingly fast, spherical and have no visible means of propulsion or trails of exhaust. The Navy says these videos represent just a tiny fraction of reported "incursions." Mull that, too.

A Navy spokesman said the newfound transparency about unidentified aerial phenomena is part of an attempt to get pilots to report such sightings without fearing any stigma. It's a stunning turnaround for a government that spent decades assuring the country that every object in our skies could be explained and scoffing at UFO enthusiasts who embraced the unlimited possibilities they saw in the skies.

For all of us on the ground, though, it's a reminder that we don't have all the answers, that we live in a limitless and mysterious universe. And in that context, our daily strife and struggles are just a bit of cosmic dust.

(c)2019 Newsday



A terrible idea when it comes to Iran

WASHINGTON—No. No. No. No.

We are not going to war with Iran. Not if rationality has anything to do with it.

We are an energy independent nation, not a mercenary military force called out to put our sons' and daughters' blood on the line to retaliate for strikes against oil fields in Saudi Arabia, with which we have no military treaty. Conducting military operations against Iran for Saudi "reimbursement," as Donald Trump proposed, is a terrible idea.

We have been at war in the Middle East for 18 years. Thousands of lives lost, thousands more ruined. Enough. We have gained nothing. We must not go down that road again. (The definition of insanity? Doing something over and over again, expecting a different outcome.)

Trump's ridiculous tweet and Vice President Mike Pence's sycophantic insistence that the United States is "locked and loaded"—to do whatever Saudi Arabia asks of us to get even with Iran for missile and drone strikes against Saudi oil fields—make no sense.

"Locked and loaded" is a firing-range term meaning a weapon is ready to fire. For a president who pledged to get us out of Iraq and Afghanistan, it's dumbfounding that Trump would consider so blithely putting the U.S. military on the line again in the Middle East.

For oil? Again?

Odd that the first country Trump visited as president was Saudi Arabia, not Mexico or Canada as is traditional. Odd that he repeatedly stresses how much he likes Saudi Arabia for putting millions of dollars in his businesses. Odd that four of Trump's five vetoes were designed to thwart the will of Congress because Trump wanted to befriend Saudi Arabia.

Odd that when the CIA said Saudi Arabia's de facto leader Mohammad bin Salman ordered the beheading of an American journalist who worked for The Washington Post, there were no repercussions from the Trump administration.

Odd that a lobbyist for Saudi Arabia paid for 500 Trump hotel rooms for the Trump inaugural. Odd that Saudi Arabia rents an entire floor of Trump's tower in New York City.

Despite what he tweeted, Trump has no authority to declare war against Iran, which has been supporting the rebels in Yemen, the poorest of the Arab states. Saudi Arabia has all but obliterated Yemen, supported by American bombs, killing and maiming thousands and turning millions into refugees.

Saudi Arabia is paying Al Qaida to fight its proxy war in Yemen. Al Qaida, we must never forget, killed 3,000 Americans on Sept. 11, 2001, in the plane hijackings against the World Trade

By ANN MCFEATTERS

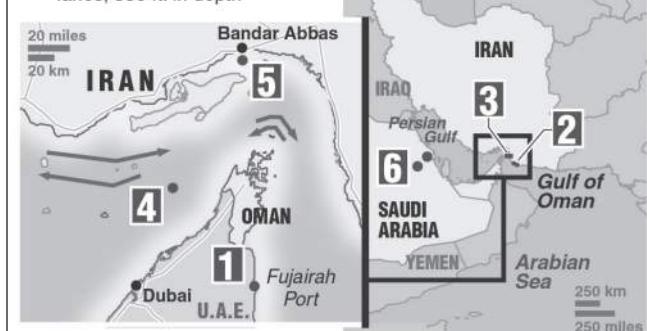
Tribune News Service



Ann McFeatters is an op-ed columnist for Tribune News Service. Readers may send her email at amcfeatters@nationalpress.com.

Tensions in volatile region peak

► Deep channel sea lanes, 330 ft. in depth



1 May 12: Four oil tankers attacked near the port of Fujairah

2 June 13: Two oil tankers attacked

3 June 20: U.S. drone shot down

Source: AP, BBC
Graphic: Staff, TNS

4 July 10: 3 Iranian Revolutionary Guard vessels tried to impede the passage of a British oil tanker

5 July 19: U.K.-flagged tanker seized by Iran

6 Sept. 14: 2 oil fields attacked by drones in Saudi Arabia

Center, the Pentagon and the plane that crashed in Pennsylvania. Fifteen of the 19 hijackers came from Saudi Arabia.

Trump has alienated so many allies that there is no way they would support a war against Iran on Saudi Arabia's behalf. No such thing as a coalition of the willing this time.

Trump threw out the carefully negotiated 2015 nuclear deal with Iran, signed by six nations, which was being enforced. But he had nothing to offer in its place. When asked, three times on internationally televised press conferences and interviews, if he would meet with Iran without preconditions, he said yes. "No

See IRAN on Next Page

EDITORIAL POLICY

Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The

Saipan Tribune reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Swearing as a campaign strategy

Politicians have a long history of swearing. Surreptitious recordings of the White House during the Johnson and Nixon administrations in the 1960s and '70s document extensive presidential profanity. Andrew Jackson reportedly swore so much that his pet parrot started imitating him, to the point that it had to be removed from Jackson's funeral. But for the most part, politician profanity has been either fleeting or shuttered behind closed doors—until recently.

Over the last several years, we've seen a substantial uptick in public political profanity. As a candidate, Donald Trump's early stump speeches were often punctuated by swear words—words that require some creativity to write about in a family newspaper.

In a speech in New Hampshire in early 2016, Trump used a coarse term for a female body part to refer to a fellow Republican candidate for president, Ted Cruz. (Trump had previously been recorded using the same word while talking about grabbing women.) Trump the candidate was also comparatively loose with weaker profanity like "hell" and made scatological references.

Cut to the current presidential campaign, where about half of the Democratic candidates have gone on the record swearing. It's gotten to the point where the Democratic National Committee and ABC News reportedly instructed candidates to avoid swearing before Thursday's debate.

Avoiding profanity will be more challenging for certain candidates. Beto O'Rourke seems almost to have made prolific use of the F-word one of the planks of his platform. Asked about a mass shooting in Texas, he responded: "This is fouled up," except he didn't say "fouled." (Family newspaper, remember.) And he's now selling campaign T-shirts branded with the profane version of that phrase. Cory Booker also seems quite comfortable swearing on the record, as did Kirsten Gillibrand, who dropped out of the race last month.

This trend is more than just anecdotal. Research by analytics firm GovPredict found that politicians' use of profanity on Twitter has taken off. In the three years ending in 2016, politicians tweeted a total of 408 profanities. Contrast that with the next three years, when profane tweets increased by nearly 15 times, to 6,047.

2016 was clearly a turning point for how politicians use language.

You might imagine that this increase has been due to the intensity of emotions stirred by the current political moment. After all, we know that profanity increases when people are angry, fearful, excited or otherwise emotionally aroused.

But it's far more likely that the swearing is strategic. Presidential candidates finely craft their public images. Given the consideration they give to every word in every message, it seems

IRAN

From Page 10

preconditions." When this posture became inconvenient, he said it was "fake news."

Iran is huge—four times bigger than Iraq. War with Iran would be devastating to America's military, which already has suffered far too much in the Middle East, where some service members have been deployed four times or more. (And, it must be noted again, Trump is taking billions of money from the military to fund the "wall" on the southern border that Congress voted against.)

The idea that Trump, a draft dodger, is even thinking of threatening war on behalf of Saudi Arabia, using an American military whose members have been fighting continuously for 18 years, is outrageous. Also, it must be noted, he has no authority to go to war in Iran.

The strikes on Saudi Arabia's oil fields are sickening and hurt the global economy, although not irrevocably.

But it is not worth America going to war on the Saudis' behalf. Trump may be ignorant but he is not stupid. The American people will not stomach another war in the Middle East. And Trump is determined to win another term in 2020.

At the same time, Trump's irresponsible rhetoric about being "locked and loaded" and unbelievably short-sighted thinking about Iran in general have undermined this country's credibility at a nail-bitingly dangerous time.

unlikely that even profound emotional arousal would cause their tongues to slip.

Further evidence comes from who uses the bulk of the profanity. Consider the 20 candidates still in the running for the Democratic nomination for president. The front-runners aren't swearing. Or if they are, it's very mild, like Bernie Sanders' "I wrote the damn bill" refrain, which was bandied about in Thursday's debate. Or Elizabeth Warren's purported favorite swear word: "poop." Both words can be printed in this family newspaper, providing further evidence that the front-runners are using uncontroversial language.

Meanwhile, the underdogs are loosing their tongues. O'Rourke and Booker—whose examples of profanity couldn't be quoted in these pages—are polling under 5%. A radical and risky change in behavior like this in the underdogs alone screams strategy. Author Malcolm Gladwell might call this a "David strategy," a chance approach that a desperately overpowered David would resort to, but that a front-running Goliath would never need to risk.

Here's how the strategic thinking might go. Swearing serves as a social signal. Listeners judge people who swear to be more honest and more intense. It's clear why a candidate might want to be seen this way. However, people may also judge swearers to be untrustworthy, incompetent and vulgar. In using swearing as a strategy, the calculus is that the positive effects may outweigh the negative ones.

Adopters of this strategy might be hoping that their target audience responds favorably to profanity. It's known that the younger and less religious among us view profanity more favorably. Politicians competing for younger and less religious voters (who are disproportionately represented among Democrats) might see more of an upside.

Under these conditions, swearing might move the needle. But not much, and it's not clear in which direction. Too many other things are working against it.

By BENJAMIN BERGEN

Los Angeles Times



Benjamin Bergen is a professor of cognitive science at UC San Diego and author of What the F: What Swearing Reveals About Our Language, Our Brains, and Ourselves.

First, the negative effects are real. Attracting younger, less religious voters through profanity risks the potential cost of alienating older, more religious voters, or any voter who happens to object to profanity.

In addition, younger people's attitudes toward profanity have changed over the years, to the point where the type of profanity politicians use may not have much impact on them. Profanity has erupted in the public sphere on cable television, streaming video, social media and in online gaming. As a consequence, most of comedian George Carlin's "seven dirty words" that you can't say on TV are often judged to be only marginally offensive by people under the age of 40. So the target voting population may be underwhelmed by swearing they view as tepid.

And finally, if members of the electorate believe that politicians are swearing strategically, it might backfire. Younger voters might find the swearing inauthentic or cynical—as a painful but failed attempt to act hip.

To win our votes, politicians need to grab our attention. Using profanity definitely does that. When four-letter words are unexpected, they can be quite memorable. Hearing them increases the listener's heart rate and releases adrenaline. But profanity is no panacea. And media analysis that calls this strategic swearing out for what it is (as I'm doing here) certainly won't make it any more effective.

Bernie Sanders and the anti-people crusade

At least Bernie Sanders is an equal opportunity misanthrope. He doesn't like rich people, and it turns out he doesn't necessarily like poor people, either.

At the recent CNN town hall on climate change, a questioner asked the socialist senator if he'd be "courageous" enough to endorse population control to save the planet. Sanders answered "yes," and then, after referring to abortion rights, endorsed curtailing population growth, "especially in poor countries around the world where women do not necessarily want to have large numbers of babies."

He's looking at you, sub-Saharan Africa.

The Sanders riff is the latest instance of a rising anti-natalism on the left, which has gone from arguing that carbon emissions are a problem to arguing that human beings are a problem. They release carbon emissions, don't they? Q.E.D.

When a proposition has the support of Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, who questions the morality of having children, and Bill Nye the Science Guy, who has discussed punishing people for having children, it's on the way to universal assent among a certain segment of soi-disant thoughtful progressives. A headline in The New York Times even asked, "Would Human Extinction Be a Tragedy?"

Undergirding the anti-natalist position is the belief that we are facing a global catastrophe, such that additional babies will tip the planet into uninhabitability for everyone. This goes beyond the best evidence, and discounts the human capacity for adaptation that is one of our chief attributes.

The view that human beings are an unsustainable drain on limited resources goes back to the 18th-century thinker Thomas Malthus and, more recently, the Stanford University biologist Paul Ehrlich. In his 1968 book "The Population Bomb," Ehrlich put an emphasis on overly fertile Third World countries, just as Bernie Sanders did.

But if consumption and carbon emissions are the concern, it's rich people in developed countries who are the bigger problem

By RICH LOWRY

King Features Synd., Inc.



Rich Lowry is editor of the National Review.

and should be dealt with accordingly (a task for which Sanders is dismally well-suited). As Benjamin Zycher of the American Enterprise Institute notes, rising incomes—considered an unalloyed good by anyone who experiences them—inevitably increase energy consumption.

What are we to make of an agenda that seeks to diminish the number of human beings overall and to make those who enjoy material prosperity less wealthy?

At a more fundamental level, the anti-natalists have a gross materialistic view of humanity. For them, we are a series of inputs and outputs, and if one particular output is considered undesirable (in this case, carbon emissions), it reduces the value of human beings altogether. No one who isn't a cracked ideological extremist or perversely blinkered economist actually looks at people this way. It doesn't account for relationships or for joy, for the wondrous distinctiveness of every person, no matter how poor or humble.

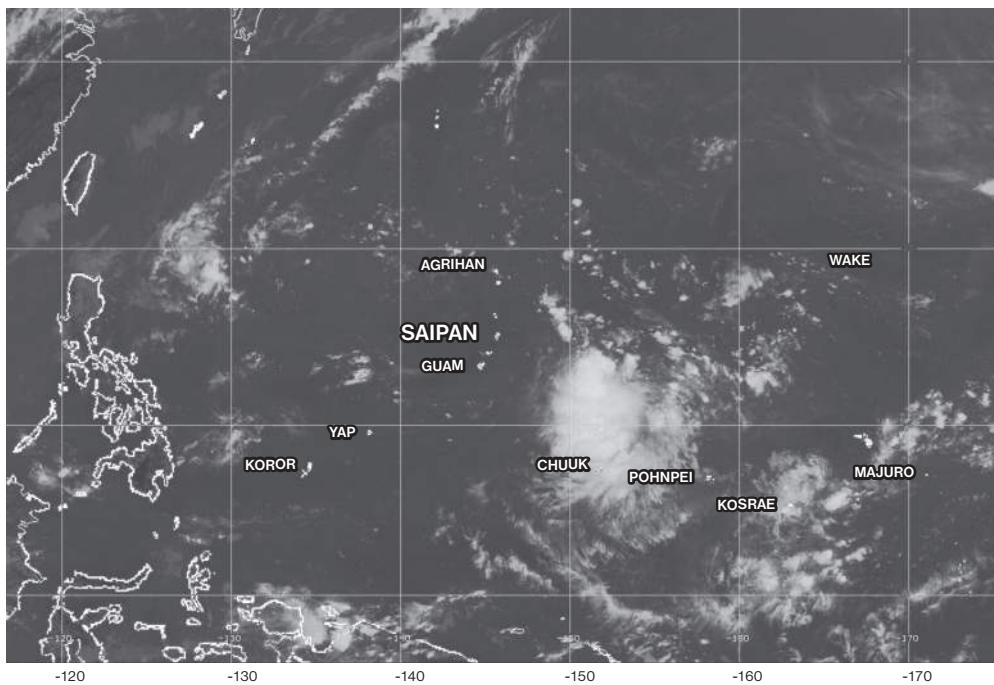
People aren't a burden; they are a resource and a gift. Any movement that regards them any other way is profoundly misguided and deeply anti-human. Build windmills if you must, but don't try to scare people out of having children—or much worse, facilitate abortions—in your zeal to shave some fraction of a degree off the global temperature 80 years from now.

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY
Mostly cloudy with scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms. North to northeast winds 5 to 15 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms. South to southeast winds 5 to 15 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms. South to southeast winds 5 to 15 mph.	Mostly cloudy with scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
87°	78°	88°	78°	88°
78°	88°	78°	88°	78°

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 7:02 AM, WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 25, 2019

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

The weather is quiet this morning, with light winds and combined seas near 4 feet. Radar shows isolated showers in the Guam coastal waters and out to the east and south. Satellite imagery shows a weak tropical disturbance east of the islands, centered near 12N 154E.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

MICRONESIA		▲	▼	°F
Guam and Rota	Thunderstorm	84°	/	78°
Palau	Mostly Sunny	85°	/	79°
Yap	Mostly Sunny	86°	/	79°
Chuuk	Thunderstorm	87°	/	81°
Pohnpei	Partly Cloudy	88°	/	77°
Kosrae	Partly Cloudy	88°	/	77°
Majuro	Thunderstorm	85°	/	82°

AROUND THE GLOBE		▲	▼	°F
Auckland	Windy	59°	/	52°
Beijing	Mostly Sunny	84°	/	57°
Hong Kong	Sunny	88°	/	79°
Honolulu	Showers	87°	/	77°
London	Showers	66°	/	55°
Los Angeles	Partly Cloudy	78°	/	67°
Manila	Thunderstorm	88°	/	79°
Melbourne	Showers	61°	/	43°
Miami	Partly Cloudy	85°	/	77°
New York	Mostly Sunny	83°	/	61°
Osaka	Mostly Cloudy	84°	/	72°
Paris	Showers	72°	/	61°
Busan	Rain	75°	/	72°
Rome	Mostly Sunny	81°	/	59°
Salem	Mostly Sunny	96°	/	69°
San Francisco	Mostly Sunny	73°	/	59°
Seoul	Cloudy	79°	/	64°
Tokyo	Partly Cloudy	81°	/	64°
Washington, DC	Mostly Sunny	90°	/	64°

NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.net

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY			FEET
4:27 AM	HIGH TIDE	1.81	
11:31 AM	LOW TIDE	-0.11	
6:26 PM	HIGH TIDE	1.99	
12:12 AM	LOW TIDE	0.90	

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET	
Today	6:06 AM	6:10 PM	
Friday	6:06 AM	6:09 PM	
Saturday	6:06 AM	6:09 PM	
Sunday	6:06 AM	6:08 PM	
Monday	6:06 AM	6:07 PM	

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	3:11 AM	4:17 PM	-
Friday	4:14 AM	5:08 PM	-
Saturday	5:16 AM	5:57 PM	-
Sunday	6:18 AM	6:44 PM	-
Monday	7:18 AM	7:31 PM	-

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ADVERTISING For inquiries contact (670) 235-2769. E-mail: sales@saipantribune.com

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF SEPTEMBER 20, 2019

DEPARTURES				ARRIVALS			
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)				GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN			
UA117	9:15am	9:57am	Daily	UA1747:30am	8:07am	Daily	
UA105	6:25pm	7:05pm	2, 4	UA104	4:50pm	5:31pm	2, 4
SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)				NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN			
BC802	4:45pm	7:30pm	Sep 20 to 22	BC801	10:00am	2:40pm	Sep 20 to 22
SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)				BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN			
7C3451	3:30am	6:30am	4	7C3452	9:05pm	2:10am+1	1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7
7C3451	3:10am	6:10am	1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 7	7C3452	9:35pm	2:30am+1	3
SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)				SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN			
TW308	1:35am	5:20am	Daily	7C3402	9:30am	3:10pm	Daily
OZ626	2:20am	6:00am	1	TW307	7:00pm	12:35am+1	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
OZ626	2:50am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7	TW307	7:05pm	12:35am+1	1
7C3403	4:45am	8:35am	1, 2, 3, 5, 7	OZ625	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
7C3403	5:00am	8:30am	4	OZ625	8:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
7C3403	5:00am	8:50am	6	7C3404	10:10pm	3:40am+1	1, 2, 4, 6, 7
7C3401	4:10pm	7:45pm	4, 7	7C3404	10:40pm	4:10am+1	3, 5
7C3401	4:10pm	8:10pm	1, 2, 3, 5, 6				
SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)				SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN			
3U8648	6:10am	8:50am	1, 4, 5, 7	3U8647	10:30pm	4:30am+1	3, 4, 6, 7
SAIPAN-HANGZHOU (GHG)				HANGZHOU (GHG)-SAIPAN			
JD396	7:30am	12:05pm	1	JD395	8:05am	3:30pm	4
JD396	4:50pm	7:55pm	4	JD395	8:50pm	5:00am+1	7
SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)				GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN			
3U8646	4:30am	7:50am	2, 6	3U8645	8:10pm	3:10am+1	1, 5
SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)				BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN			
MU764	1:30am	6:00am	3, 5, 7	MU763	4:50pm	12:30am+1	2, 4, 6
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)				MANILA (MNL)-SA			

Business

Ada now accredited investment fiduciary analyst

MAITE, Guam—Martin B. Ada has been awarded the Accredited Investment Fiduciary Analyst® (AIFA®) designation from the Center for Fiduciary Studies™, the standards-

setting body for fi360. The AIFA® designation signifies the ability to perform fiduciary assessments measuring how well investment fiduciaries are fulfilling their duties to a defined standard of care. The designation is the culmination of a rigorous training program, including a comprehensive, closed-book examination under the supervision of a proctor, and agreement to abide by the Code of Ethics and Conduct Standards. On an ongoing basis, completion of continuing education and adherence to the Code of Ethics and Conduct Standards are

required to maintain the AIFA® designation. Ada, a resident of the CNMI, currently serves as chairman, Board of Trustees of Marianas Public Land Trust. He has served on the MPLT Board of Trustees since February 27, 2013.

MPLT was established in accordance with the CNMI Constitution to manage the funds received from the lease of Commonwealth public lands. Upon the formation



Ada

of the Trust, the initial Trustees divided it into two trusts, the General Trust Fund and the American Memorial Trust Fund, in order to comply with the intention of the Commonwealth Constitution and the Covenant to Establish a Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands in Political Union with the United States of America. It is governed by a Board of Trustees. APAFS is a Guam-based 501(c)3 non-profit educational and charitable associa-

tion. APAFS was founded in 2000 by representatives from public and private institutional funds from around the Asia Pacific Region. The goal of APAFS is to raise the level of understanding and standards of practice among fiduciaries in the region, so that they may provide the most prudent stewardship of the funds entrusted to their care. APAFS hosts a variety of fiduciary education programs, to include its annual flagship Pacific Region Investment Conference. The 19th annual conference will be held in November 2019, in Manila, Philippines. (PR)

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Labor rule aims to extend overtime to more US workers

WASHINGTON (AP)—The Trump administration has issued a rule that will make overtime pay available to 1.3 million additional workers, though the proposal replaces a more generous one advanced by former President Barack Obama. The Labor Department said Tuesday that it is raising the salary level that companies will have to pay to exempt workers from overtime to \$35,568 a year, up from \$23,660. Americans earning less than that amount will typically be paid time and a half for any work over 40 hours a week. The new rule will benefit retail, fast-food restaurant, and home health care workers, as well as other lower-paid workers. Many employees in those industries have been paid just above the \$23,660 threshold, which has been in place since 2004, and then required to work overtime without extra pay. Many worker rights' group and left-of-center economists criticized the move, however, for covering far fewer workers than an earlier proposal issued by the Obama administration in 2015. Under Obama, the Labor Department proposed raising the threshold to more than \$47,000, which would have made nearly 5 million more workers eligible for overtime. That rule, however, was struck down in court after being challenged by states and business groups.

ADB trims Asian outlook, citing trade wars, global slowdown

BANGKOK (AP)—The Asian Development Bank has downgraded its growth forecasts for the region, saying escalating trade tensions are sapping economies of some of their potential. The regional lender said in a report released Wednesday that it expects regional growth of 5.4% this year and 5.5% in the coming year, slightly below its earlier forecasts. A further deterioration in the tariff war between China and the U.S. poses risks that stretch beyond that conflict and beyond the region, the Manila, Philippines-based bank said. Asian economies logged 5.9% growth in 2018, but faltering exports and investment have sapped the region of some of its dynamism. Meanwhile, growth in wealthy, advanced economies has also flagged. "Downside risks to the outlook have intensified" with repercussions beyond trade, the report said. "The conflict will likely persist at least into 2020 and could broaden to involve other regional economies."

Investigator says FAA training inspectors weren't qualified

Federal investigators say some safety inspectors who helped set pilot-training standards for the Boeing 737 Max were unqualified and the Federal Aviation Administration seemed to mislead Congress about their competency. The FAA disputed part of the investigators' conclusions on Tuesday. The agency said all the inspectors who evaluated the Max were fully qualified for the work they did, and it stood by its statements to Congress. The standoff between investigators and the FAA stems from a whistleblower complaint that was investigated by the U.S. Office of Special Counsel. The special counsel's disclosures are another setback for the FAA, which is already under scrutiny for its certification of the 737 Max. According to published reports, senior FAA officials did not understand a key flight-control system that was later implicated in two crashes that killed 346 people. The FAA determined that 16 of 22 inspectors in Seattle and Long Beach, California, had not finished their formal training, and of the 16, 11 did not hold a flight-instructor license, a requirement for the job. But, the FAA told a Senate committee this spring, they worked on other planes and none of the unqualified inspectors helped write training standards for the Max.

Google wins case over EU's 'right to be forgotten' rules

BRUSSELS (AP)—Handing Google a major victory, the European Union's highest court ruled Tuesday that the EU's "right to be forgotten" rules that allow people to control what comes up when their name is searched online do not apply outside the 28-nation bloc.

Over the past five years, people in Europe have had the right to ask Google and other search engines to delete links to outdated or embarrassing information about themselves, even if it is true. More recently, France's privacy regulator wanted the rule applied to all of Google's search engines, even those outside Europe.

But the European Court of Justice declared there is "no obligation under EU law for a search engine operator" to abide by the rule beyond the EU.

It said, however, that a search engine operator must put measures in place to discourage internet users from going outside the EU to find the deleted information.

The decision highlighted the growing tension between privacy and the public's right to know and underscored the difficulties in enforcing different jurisdictions' rules when it comes to the borderless internet.

It also illustrated the way the internet is regulated more heavily in Europe than in the U.S., where authorities are constrained by the First Amendment guarantee of free speech and freedom of the

press. The U.S. has no laws equivalent to Europe's "right to be forgotten" measure.

Peter Fleischer, Google's senior privacy counsel, welcomed the ruling and added that the U.S. internet search giant has worked hard "to strike a sensible balance between people's rights of access to information and privacy."

Those who wanted to see the rule extended beyond the

EU argued that on the internet it is easy to switch between national versions of Google's website—from google.fr to google.com, for example—to find missing information.

Since Google started handling "right to be forgotten" requests in 2014, it has deleted about 1.3 million web links from its search results, or 45% of all requests processed, according to the company's

transparency report.

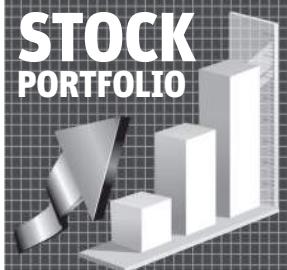
Takedown requests filed by Europeans are reviewed by Google staff members, based mainly in Ireland, who look into whether the webpage contains sensitive information such as race, religion or sexual orientation; relates to children or crimes committed as a minor; or is about old convictions, acquittals or false accusations.



45TH ANNIVERSARY GIVEAWAY

To mark its 45th anniversary, Pacifica Insurance Underwriters, Inc. is giving away free car service maintenance gift certificates to 45 lucky winners throughout 2019. Pacifica Insurance marketing coordinator Samantha Sikayun, right, presents prize winner Sailicia Nanpei, left, with the car service gift certificate. Nanpei will be entitled to the Gold Service package at Joeten Motor Co., which includes free oil change, adjustment of tire pressure, 28 multi-point inspections, and other services. For more information about this car service giveaway log on to www.pacificains.com/45years.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



LEADING INDICATORS

S&P	DOW	NASDAQ
2,966.60	26,807.77	7,993.63
-25.18	-142.22	-118.83

In U.S. dollar terms

EXCHANGE RATES

	Hong Kong Dollar	7.84	Russian Ruble	63.85
Australian Dollar	1.47	Indian Rupee	70.34	Singapore Dollar
British Pound	0.80	Japanese Yen	107.35	South Korean Won
Canadian Dollar	1.33	Malaysian Ringgit	4.14	Swiss Franc
Chinese Yuan	6.99	New Zealand Dollar	1.58	Taiwan Dollar
Euro	0.91	Philippine Peso	51.23	Thailand Baht

Nation

Dems take up impeachment drive, say Trump betrayed oath

WASHINGTON (AP)—House Speaker Nancy Pelosi has launched a formal impeachment inquiry against President Donald Trump, yielding to mounting pressure from fellow Democrats and plunging a deeply divided nation into an election-year clash between Congress and the commander in chief.

The probe focuses partly on whether Trump abused his presidential powers and sought help from a foreign government to undermine Democratic foe Joe Biden and help his own reelection. Pelosi said Tuesday such actions would mark a “betrayal of his oath of office” and declared, “No one is above the law.”

The impeachment inquiry, after months of investigations by House Democrats of the Trump administration, sets up the party’s most direct and consequential confrontation with the president, injects deep uncertainty into the 2020 election campaign and tests anew the nation’s constitutional system of checks and balances.

Trump, who thrives on combat, has all but dared Democrats to take this step, confident that the specter of impeachment led by the opposition party will bolster rather than diminish his political support.

Meeting with world lead-



AP

House Speaker Nancy Pelosi of Calif., speaks as she participates in question and answer session with Jeffrey Goldberg, the editor in chief of *The Atlantic*, as part of the Atlantic Festival, Tuesday, Sept. 24, 2019 in Washington.

ers at the United Nations, he previewed his defense in an all-caps tweet: “PRESIDENTIAL HARASSMENT!”

Pelosi’s brief statement, delivered without dramatic flourish but in the framework of a constitutional crisis, capped

a frenetic weeklong stretch on Capitol Hill as details of a classified whistleblower complaint about Trump burst into the open and momentum shifted toward an impeachment probe.

For months, the Democratic

leader has tried calming the push for impeachment, saying the House must investigate the facts and let the public decide. The new drive was led by a group of moderate Democratic lawmakers from political swing districts, many of them with national security backgrounds and serving in Congress for the first time. The

freshmen, who largely represent districts previously held by Republicans where Trump is popular, risk their own reelections but say they could no longer stand idle. Amplifying their call were longtime leaders, including Rep. John Lewis of Georgia, the civil rights icon often considered the conscience of House Democrats.

Deported Army veteran returns to US in bid to become citizen

CHICAGO (AP)—An Army veteran who was deported to Mexico in 2018 arrived back in Chicago Tuesday for a final chance at becoming a U.S. citizen and living in the city he has called home since boyhood.

Federal immigration authorities granted Miguel Perez Jr. a two-week parole into the U.S. for an immigration hearing, according to his attorney. The 41-year-old Perez has a green card as a permanent U.S. resident, but after serving time for a 2008 non-violent drug conviction was deported last year. Then last month, Illinois Gov. J.B. Pritzker issued a pardon, erasing the conviction and reviving Perez’s chances to become a citizen.

“I’m speechless. I wish I could say a lot more but it’s just, I’m choked up,” a teary-eyed Perez said outside a church, hours after landing in Chicago. “I’m so blessed to be here.”

His immigration hearing was set for Wednesday, but it’s unknown when immigration officials will decide the case.

Perez’s attorney, Chris Bergin, hoped for a speedy deci-

sion so Perez wouldn’t have to return to Mexico after the 14 days are up.

Officials with U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services and U.S. Customs and Border Protection declined to comment, citing privacy laws.

Perez is among several deported military members who have been recently pardoned by Democratic governors. His case has received wide support, including from including from Sen. Tammy Duckworth of Illinois, a veteran who said Tuesday that Perez should never have been deported in the first place.

Perez was born in Mexico, but his family immigrated when he was a young child. His parents are naturalized U.S. citizens and his two children were born in the U.S.

He joined the Army in 2002 and served in Afghanistan where he suffered a brain injury and was diagnosed with post-traumatic stress disorder.

It was the disorder, which caused crippling anxiety, that led him to the drug charge, according to Bergin. Perez wasn’t able to immediately get medical care through a federal

Veterans Administration hospital, so he turned to drugs.

In 2008, he was accused of giving cocaine to an undercover police officer. He pleaded guilty and spent seven years in prison and was then turned over to Immigration and Customs Enforcement, who detained him for two years. Perez was deported last year after failing to persuade a federal appeals court to block his removal.

Perez said he faced “dangerous” conditions while living in Tijuana, Mexico, after his deportation, but he didn’t want to talk about it.

He also declined to discuss about how he was managing PTSD, saying it was too personal.

His doctor was among those who came to welcome him home at the church.

“Miguel was failed on multiple occasions by our immigration service, for sure, and our treatment service for veterans,” said Dr. David Ansell of Rush University Medical Center, who started treating Perez while he was in ICE custody. “People need treatment, not deportation.”

Police still searching for motive for Virginia mass shooting

VIRGINIA BEACH, Va. (AP)—Police still have not determined why a Virginia Beach city worker opened fire on his co-workers, killing 12 people in a mass shooting on May 31, investigators said Tuesday.

After submitting his resignation letter that morning, civil engineer DeWayne Craddock spent the hours before the massacre sending “generic” work-related emails and going on routine project site visits with co-workers, Deputy Police Chief Patrick Gallagher told the City Council. Craddock sent his last email just five minutes before he began shooting.

Craddock, 40, worked in the city’s public utilities department. He used two semi-automatic handguns, a silencer and extended ammunition magazines to kill 11 of his co-workers and a contractor who had stopped at the complex to get a permit. Craddock was killed in a fierce gunbattle with police.

“Each and every day we

have asked the question, ‘Why?’” Gallagher said. “We are still looking to determine motive and we will continue to try to identify why our suspect did what he did.”

There were no documented instances of Craddock being threatening in the workplace prior to the massacre, Gallagher said.

One of the victims was Kate Nixon. Her husband, Jason, said the investigation update provided Tuesday by police did not provide any new information and glossed over complaints he said his wife had made about Craddock’s job performance and attitude at work.

“There’s a lot more questions to be answered. I’m not satisfied with what I’ve heard,” Nixon said.

Authorities in June released a short, partially redacted resignation letter in which Craddock said he was leaving for “personal reasons.” He did not give any indication that he was unhappy at work or held a grudge against any of

“Now is the time to act,” said Lewis, in an address to the House. “To delay or to do otherwise would betray the foundation of our democracy.”

At issue are Trump’s actions with Ukraine. In a summer phone call with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskiy, he is said to have asked for help investigating former Vice President Biden and his son Hunter. In the days before the call, Trump ordered advisers to freeze \$400 million in military aid for Ukraine — prompting speculation that he was holding out the money as leverage for information on the Bidens. Trump has denied that charge, but acknowledged he blocked the funds, later released.

Biden said Tuesday, before Pelosi’s announcement, that if Trump doesn’t cooperate with lawmakers’ demands for documents and testimony in its investigations the president “will leave Congress ... with no choice but to initiate impeachment.” He said that would be a tragedy of Trump’s “own making.”

The Trump-Ukraine phone call is part of the whistleblower’s complaint, though the administration has blocked Congress from getting other details of the report, citing presidential privilege. Trump has authorized the release of a transcript of the call, which is to be made public Wednesday.

his co-workers.

Police and city officials had been criticized for being tight-lipped about Craddock’s employment history. Kevin Martingayle, an attorney for Jason Nixon, said Kate Nixon had written up Craddock in the past and thought he had a “poor attitude.”

Gallagher said Craddock received satisfactory annual work evaluations from 2010 to 2016, but was placed on and completed a “performance improvement plan” in 2017. In 2018, Craddock received an “improvement required” evaluation and a written reprimand from his immediate supervisor.

He said Craddock had friendly relationships with some co-workers and was described as “quiet, polite, nice guy and a good listener” by many of those who police interviewed.

Nixon, however, said his wife told him repeatedly that Craddock’s work was poor and frequently had to be redone by other engineers.

Asia

South Korean leader calls for closer ties with North Korea

UNITED NATIONS (AP)—

South Korean President Moon Jae-in on Tuesday called for deeper engagement with rival North Korea in return for progress on nuclear disarmament.

Moon, who has long pushed for closer ties between the Koreas, also told leaders gathered at the U.N. General Assembly in New York that his nation “will guarantee the security of North Korea. I hope North Korea will do the same for South Korea.”

Despite a string of summits between Moon and North Korean leader Kim Jong Un, and between U.S. President Donald Trump and Kim, there is a lingering standoff over how to get the North to abandon its nuclear and missile program.

Moon was a driving force behind the diplomacy that led to the historic summits. Trump, after trading insults with Kim in 2017, became the first sitting U.S. president to meet with a North Korean leader in 2018. And in June he was the first to step into North Korean territory.

Trump said Monday at the United Nations that another meeting with Kim “could happen soon” but didn’t pro-



AP
South Korea's President Moon Jae-in addresses the 74th session of the United Nations General Assembly, Tuesday, Sept. 24, 2019.

mutual security assurances would allow faster nuclear disarmament and peace on the Korean Peninsula, which is still technically in a state of war.

“The two Koreas and the United States are setting their sights not only on denuclearization and peace but also on the economic cooperation that will follow thereafter,” Moon said.

He called for an “international peace zone” in the Demilitarized Zone, a heavily fortified border separating the two Koreas — an idea that’s been generally proposed before. He said he hoped the DMZ could house U.N. offices and other international organizations.

“If North Korea makes sincere efforts to implement denuclearization, the international community should also reciprocate,” Moon said. “The establishment of an international peace zone will provide an institutional and realistic guarantee to North Korea’s security. At the same time, South Korea will also be able to gain permanent peace.”

Indonesian students rally against changes to corruption law

Opponents say the proposed criminal code threatens democracy and discriminates against minorities.

Widodo met Tuesday with lawmakers, whose terms finish at the end of this month, to urge them to delay votes on the bills after considering public concerns. Lawmakers then delayed their votes on the proposed laws in their last plenary session.

Critics say the criminal code bill contains articles that violate the rights of women, religious minorities, lesbians, gays, bisexual and transgender people, as well as freedoms of speech and association.

The planned revisions prompted Australia to update its travel advice, warning tourists of risks they could face from extramarital or gay sex if the bill is passed.

“The bill was delayed,” House Speaker Bambang Soesatyo said in a news conference. “It will be redeliberated by the lawmakers in the next term.”

However, government officials and lawmakers did not say how they will deal with the students’ demand that the new law on the anti-graft commission be revoked.

vide details.

Moon said Trump’s walk with Kim into North Korea “was a remarkable step that will go down in the history of

peace on the Korean Peninsula and in Northeast Asia. I hope both leaders will take yet another huge step from there.”

Despite the summits, North

Korea has staged a series of short-range weapons tests that has rattled South Korea and Japan. Outside analysts believe the North might be trying to gain leverage in future nuclear negotiations.

Pyongyang wants relief

from crushing sanctions imposed over its push for nuclear-armed missiles that can viably target the U.S. mainland, but Washington wants stronger nuclear disarmament steps first.

Moon said in his speech that

Pakistan battles dengue epidemic, with 20 deaths so far

ISLAMABAD (AP)—Pakistani health officials were battling an outbreak of dengue fever in the South Asian nation on Tuesday, a day after health officials confirmed over 10,000 cases and 20 deaths in recent months. More patients with symptoms of dengue fever were arriving at hospitals in all major cities, including the capital Islamabad, putting a strain on the country’s poor health system. Health officials hope that the anti-mosquito spraying in urban areas targeting stagnant water will help contain the disease. According to Zafar Mirza, a government adviser on health, as many as 10,013 dengue cases had so far been reported. Free medical treatment will be provided to patients suffering from the illness, he said. He said the number of dengue patients was still low as compared to previous years. Health officials are keeping dengue patients in isolated wards in hospitals across the country. Pakistan’s opposition criticized the government for not taking adequate measures to prevent the alarming outbreak of the disease. “The cases of dengue fever are increasing

because of government’s incompetence,” said Maryam Aurangzeb, spokeswoman for the opposition Pakistan Muslim League party.

Death toll rises to 32 in protests in Indonesia’s Papua

JAKARTA, Indonesia (AP)—The death toll from violent protests in Indonesia’s restive Papua province has risen to 32 after several bodies were found under burned buildings, officials said Tuesday. An angry mob torched local government buildings, shops and homes and set fire to cars and motorbikes in Papua province’s Wamena city on Monday in a protest by hundreds of people sparked by rumors that a teacher had insulted an indigenous student. Papua police spokesman Ahmad Musthofa Kamal said Tuesday that 12 more bodies were found in and around the burned-out wreckage of buildings engulfed in the fires set by rioters. Seventy-two other people were hospitalized, many with burns or head injuries. He said the number killed is expected to rise as authorities search through affected areas in Wamena. National Police spokesman Dedi Prasetyo said earlier that

police were questioning 733 university students involved in another protest in Jayapura that left one soldier and three civilians dead.

PH military says suspected Swedish militant arrested

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Philippine military officials say a suspected Swedish militant has been arrested with two local Muslim militant women in the country’s south where they have been linked to bomb attacks. The officials say Hassan Akgun, a Swedish of Turkish descent, was arrested late Monday with Norshiya Camsa and Normhiya Camsa in Bagumbayan town in Sultan Kudarat province and troops seized firearms, explosives and an Islamic State group-style flag from them. Regional military commander Lt. Gen. Cirilito Sobejana says Akgun is a member of an Islamic State group-linked organization in Sweden and has been linked to a bomb attack in August last year in Sultan Kudarat’s capital town of Isulan. Military officials say the women have been linked to a bombing in Isulan earlier this month that wounded eight people.

The university students are enraged that Indonesia’s Parliament passed the law last week that reduces the authority of the Corruption Eradication Commission, a key body in fighting endemic graft in the country.

They demonstrated in front of the Parliament building in the capital, Jakarta, where police used tear gas and water cannons to try to disperse the crowds, and in large cities all over the country.

The protests have grown over the past two days and turned violent in some cities. Protesters burned tires during the day and set several fires after night fell, including at a toll gate and a police post near the Parliament.

The protests, which underline Indonesia’s challenge in changing its graft-ridden image, have threatened the credibility of President Joko Widodo, who recently won a second term after campaigning for clean governance.

World

Johnson: 'Terrifying limbless chickens' but little Brexit

UNITED NATIONS (AP)—

Things the beleaguered British prime minister said in his astonishing speech to the U.N. General Assembly on Tuesday night: "Pink-eyed Terminators from the future." "Terrifying limbless chickens." "Your fridge will beep for more cheese."

Things Boris Johnson didn't address with any substance: Brexit (though he mentioned it in a quip). The British court ruling earlier in the day that said he acted illegally by dissolving Parliament. The take-no-prisoners politics that some say are threatening his premiership and undermining his

influence as Britain's leader.

Many didn't know what to expect Tuesday after the court ruling came down hours before Johnson's inaugural U.N. General Assembly speech as prime minister.

But it's safe to say few anticipated what he dramatically and energetically delivered: a caffeinated screed about the damage that technology can do if misused—and the glories it can hand humanity if it is delivered properly.

In his notably energetic speech, which ended after 10 p.m. as more than 12 hours of U.N. speeches were inching to

their end, Johnson said he was optimistic about technology's future—if humanity finds "the right balance between freedom and control."

The first potential future that Johnson mapped out was decidedly dystopian—one where technology permeates every corner of human life, and not in a good way. Digital assistants pretending to take orders—but actually watching you and acting against your interests. Computers that decide what you'll get, where you'll be allowed to go, who you'll be.

"You may keep secrets from your friends, from your

parents, your children, your

doctor—even your personal trainer—but it takes real effort to conceal your thoughts from Google," he said. "And if that is true today, in future there may be nowhere to hide."

That is not, he said, a good thing at all.

"Can these algorithms be trusted with our lives and hopes?" he asked, his delivery staccato and his hands jabbing with emphasis. "Are we doomed to a cold and hard future where a computer says 'yes' or 'no'?"

But if things are done right, the prime minister said, a different story could unfold for

all of us.

"How do you plead with an algorithm? How do you get it to see extenuating circumstances?" he said. "We need to find the right balance between freedom and control."

The spirited, tech-focused address was extraordinary given that immediately after it, he was to head back early to his home country to face a maelstrom of political problems—including the consequences of the court ruling and hearty calls for him to resign as prime minister.

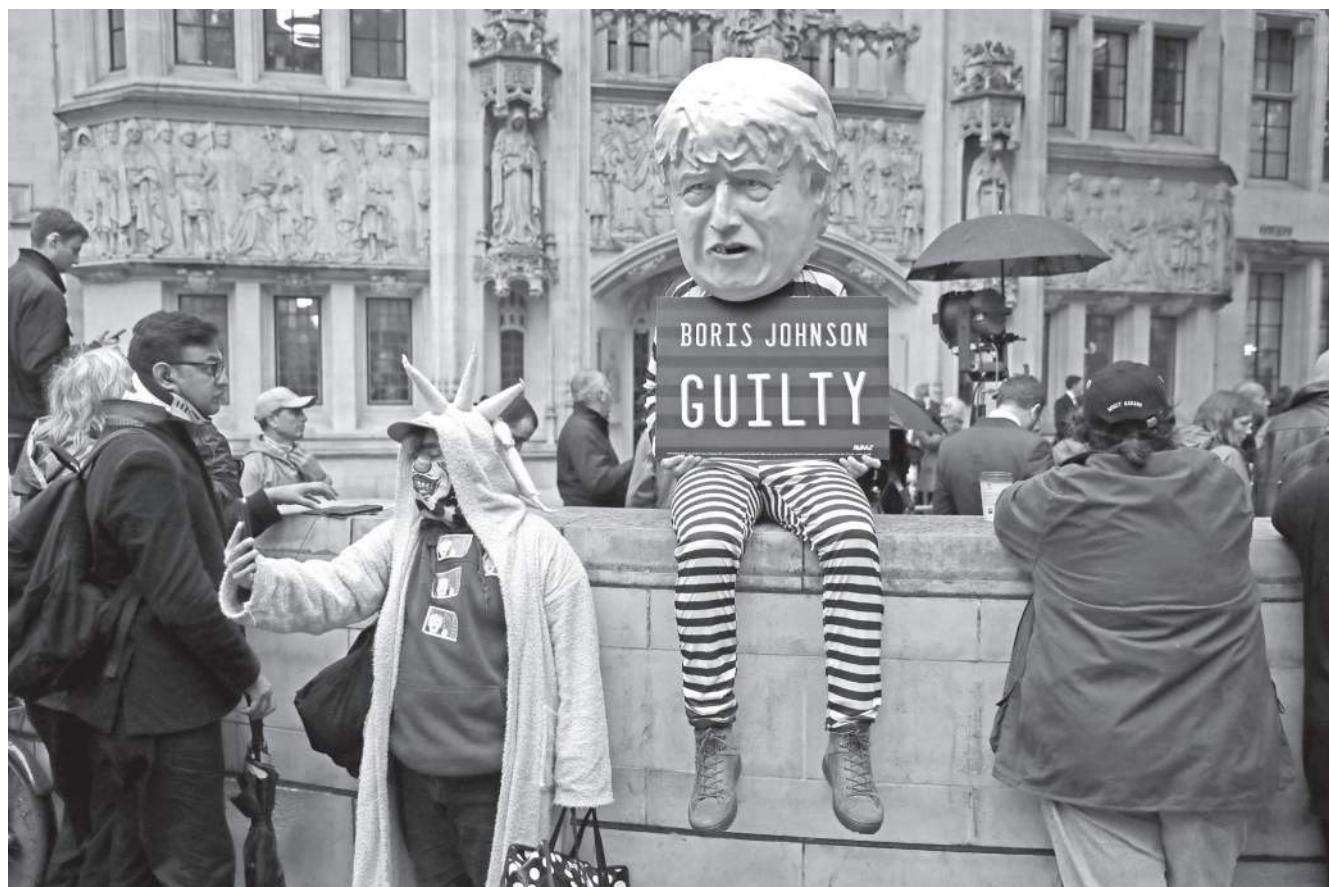
In the speech, Johnson mentioned Brexit only once—as a pointed aside while recalling the myth of Prometheus, who was chained to a rock by Zeus and sentenced to have his liver eaten out by an eagle for eternity. "And this went on forever," he quipped, "a bit like

the experience of Brexit in the U.K., if some of our parliamentarians had their way."

But he said that with the right approach—one of "freedom, openness and pluralism"—and making sure that such voices are heard loudly "in the standards bodies that write the rules," humanity can deliver itself to a brighter technological future.

"Together, we must ensure that new advances reflect our values by design," he said, adding: "I am profoundly optimistic about the ability of new technology to serve as a liberator and remake the world wonderfully and benignly. Indeed, in countless respects, technology is already doing just that."

Then, his speech over, he headed to the airport. Within the hour, he was flying home.



A person dressed as a caricature of British Prime Minister Boris Johnson in a prison uniform stands outside the Supreme Court in London, Tuesday, Sept. 24, 2019 after it made its decision on the legality of Johnson's five-week suspension of Parliament. In a setback for Johnson, Britain's Supreme Court has ruled that the suspension of Parliament was illegal.

Isolated and restricted, Iran uses UN gathering for outreach

NEW YORK (AP)—Iran's delegates to the United Nations are confined to a roughly six-block radius of Manhattan, but that hasn't limited their reach as they mount a diplomatic blitz at the U.N. General Assembly this week.

President Hassan Rouhani has used his time in New York to meet with the leaders of the UK, France, Germany and Japan on the sidelines of the U.N. meeting. He also met with U.S. media leaders and gave a TV interview to Fox News.

Inside the U.N., talk of Iran has made it into speeches by world leaders as the crisis brewing in the Persian Gulf looms over the annual gathering. But all around, there's been a diplomatic flurry of activity to address the rising tensions, in addition to dem-

onstrations, conversations and interviews all focused on Iran.

It comes as movements of Iran's delegation to the U.N. are far more restricted than in previous years, when Iranian representatives to the U.N. were allowed to travel within a 25-mile radius in midtown Manhattan.

The need for diplomacy and dialogue—both mainstays of the U.N.—seems to have taken on an added sense of urgency as officials from Europe and the Middle East stress the importance of avoiding escalations that could lead to war.

The sense of urgency follows months of provocations in the Persian Gulf that culminated in a stunning attack earlier this month on key oil facilities in Saudi Arabia.

"We believe that Iran was

responsible because these were Iranian weapons," Saudi Arabia's Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, Adel al-Jubeir, told an audience of intellectuals and journalists on Tuesday at the Council on Foreign Relations in New York.

A day earlier, Britain, France and Germany joined the United States and Saudi Arabia in blaming Iran for the Sep. 14 attack, even as Iran insists it had no involvement in the strikes that were claimed by Yemeni rebels.

Al-Jubeir described the European statement as a "very significant step forward in terms of the European position."

He said Saudi Arabia wants "to make sure that we avoid war at all costs."

"But we're not going to sit there with our hands tied while

the Iranians continue to attack us," he added.

At another gathering that focused on Iran, a senior Gulf official told a small group of reporters in New York earlier in the week that there's still room for diplomacy, but he said the discussion must expand beyond the focus on Iran's nuclear enrichment to include its ballistic-missile program and Tehran's support for Shiite militias across the Middle East.

"There is much more room and time for diplomacy and discussions. We must work to engage the U.S., the Europeans, and the international community in collective diplomacy," the official said, speaking on condition of anonymity because of the sensitivity of the diplomatic efforts.

Israel's main parties begin talks on coalition government

JERUSALEM (AP)—Negotiators for Israel's two largest parties met Tuesday to discuss the possibility of forming a unity government, part of a long-shot effort to break the political deadlock following last week's national elections.

The meeting between party representatives came a day after Blue and White leader Benny Gantz and Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu of the rival Likud party held their first working meeting since the vote. Israeli President Reuven Rivlin brought them together in hopes of breaking an impasse that could lead to months of political limbo and potentially force a third election in less than a year.

"We took a significant step this evening, and now the main challenge is building a direct channel of communication out of trust between the two sides," Rivlin told the two rivals. "People expect you to find a solution and to prevent further elections, even if it comes at a personal and even ideological cost."

Israel's president is responsible for choosing a candidate for prime minister after national elections. That task is usually a formality, but it is far more complicated this time since neither of the top two candidates can build a stable parliamentary majority on his own.

Rivlin summoned Gantz and Netanyahu for another summit Wednesday before making his decision. No

breakthrough is expected, and it is unclear which way Rivlin is leaning.

On Tuesday, negotiators from the two parties met for what they described in a joint statement as a "matter-of-fact" meeting "held in good spirits."

Gantz's centrist Blue and White came in first in the elections, with 33 seats, trailed by Netanyahu's Likud with 31. With smaller allied parties, a total of 55 lawmakers have thrown their support behind Netanyahu, against 54 for Gantz, leaving both men short of the required 61-seat majority.

A unity deal between the large parties, with a rotating leadership, is seen as perhaps the only way out of the gridlock. That's what Avigdor Lieberman, the leader of the ultranationalist Yisrael Beiteinu party, is insisting upon. Lieberman, who controls eight seats, has refused to endorse either candidate and is demanding they join him in a broad, secular unity government that excludes the ultra-Orthodox parties—Netanyahu's longtime partners. A former aide and ally of Netanyahu, Lieberman forced the Sept. 17 repeat vote by refusing to join Netanyahu's coalition and robbing him of his parliamentary majority.

Both Netanyahu and Gantz have expressed support for a unity government but have deep disagreements over its agenda and who should lead it.

Focus



UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres addresses the 74th session of the United Nations General Assembly, Tuesday, Sept. 24, 2019.

AP
U.S. President Donald Trump addresses the 74th session of the United Nations General Assembly, Tuesday, Sept. 24, 2019.

UN chief warns of a world divided between US and China

By EDITH M. LEDERER
ASSOCIATED PRESS

UNITED NATIONS (AP)—U.N. Secretary-General Antonio Guterres warned global leaders Tuesday of the looming risk of the world splitting in two, with the United States and China creating rival internets, currency, trade, financial rules “and their own zero sum geopolitical and military strategies.”

Full Coverage: United Nations General Assembly

In his annual “state of the world address” to the General Assembly’s gathering of heads of state and government, Guterres said the risk “may not yet be large, but it is real.”

“We must do everything possible to avert the great fracture and maintain a universal system, a universal economy with universal respect for international law; a multipolar world with strong multilateral institutions,” he told presidents, prime ministers, monarchs and ministers from the U.N.’s 193 member states.

Guterres painted a grim picture of a deeply divided and anxious planet facing a climate crisis, “the alarming possibility of armed conflict in the Gulf,” spreading terrorism, rising populism and “exploding” inequality.

His speech was followed by the traditional first speaker—Brazil, represented by its new president, Jair Bolsonaro—and the United States, represented by President Donald Trump.

British Prime Minister Boris Johnson, who is scheduled to speak later, said he was returning to London immediately afterward, where he will face the fallout of a court ruling against his decision to shut down Parliament over the is debating the U.K. in the crucial countdown to the country’s withdrawal from the European Union.

The United Nations, designed to promote a multilateral world, has struggled in the face of increasing unilateralism by the U.S. and other nations that favor going it alone.

Trump stressed in his speech that “love of our nations makes the world better for all nations.”

“The future does not belong to globalists,” he said. “The future belongs to patriots.”

Not so, said France’s President Emmanuel Macron, who disagreed with the American president and said the world’s problems cannot be solved by turning inwards.

True patriotism, Macron said, “combines a love of one’s nation” with a multilateralism “based on real cooperation that strives to produce concrete results.”

Said Guterres: “We are living in a world of disquiet.”

“A great many people fear getting trampled, thwarted, left behind. Machines take their jobs. Traffickers take their dignity. Demagogues take their rights. Warlords take their lives. Fossil fuels take their future,” he said.

Yet, the secretary-general said people still believe in “the spirit and ideas” of the United Nations and its foundation of multilateralism, of all countries working together.

But he asked the VIP crowd in the horseshoe-shaped assembly chamber: “Do they believe leaders will put people first?”

“We, the leaders must deliver for we, the peoples,” Guterres said.

The global meeting unfolds against the backdrop of flaring tensions between Iran and Saudi Arabia, backed by its longtime ally, the United States. The Saudis say Iran was responsible for an attack earlier this month on two oil facilities in the kingdom, which Iran denies.

The Trump administration has been engaged in an escalating series of harsh words

and threats with Tehran. The U.S. has imposed increasingly crippling sanctions.

Iranian President Hassan Rouhani is scheduled to address world leaders on Wednesday.

Guterres gave a dire warning about the situation in the Gulf.

“Above all, we are facing the alarming possibility of armed conflict in the Gulf, the consequences of which the world cannot afford,” he said. “In a context where a minor miscalculation can lead to a major confrontation, we must do everything possible to push for reason and restraint.”

Trump said the U.S. “does not seek conflict with any other nation” and desires peace, but “I will never fail to defend America’s interests.”

He called Iran “the world’s No. 1 state sponsor of terrorism” and accused it of fueling wars in Syria and Yemen while squandering its wealth in a “fanatical quest” for nuclear weapons and the means to deliver them.

“No responsible government should subsidize Iran’s bloodlust,” Trump said, warning that as long as Iran’s “menacing behavior” continues, U.S. sanctions will be tightened.

Guterres also warned that

“outside interference” is making peace processes more difficult. And he pointed to unresolved conflicts from Yemen to Libya, Afghanistan and beyond.

“A succession of unilateral actions threatens to torpedo a two-state solution between Israel and Palestine,” Guterres said. “In Venezuela, 4 million people have fled the country—one of the largest displacements in the world. Tensions are elevated in South Asia, where differences need to be addressed through dialogue.”

France’s Macron appealed to world leaders to bring back the “courage” to make peace, especially in the Middle East.

He urged the United States, Iran and countries in the region to resume negotiations, and the target should be that

Iran never develop or acquire nuclear weapons, a solution to the conflict in Yemen, a regional security plan that includes securing navigation, and finally the lifting of economic sanctions.

Tuesday’s opening session of the so-called General Debate followed three days of meetings focusing on the growing environmental threat to the planet.

Guterres told leaders “what once was called ‘climate change’ is now truly a ‘climate crisis’ . and what was once called ‘global warming’ has more accurately become ‘global heating’ .”

While satellite data from the Brazilian Space Agency has shown a sharp increase in deforestation and forest fires in the past year, Bolsonaro told leaders: “The Amazon is not being devastated nor is it being consumed by fire as the media misleadingly says.”

This year’s General Assembly session, which ends Sept. 30, has attracted world leaders from 136 of the 193 U.N. member nations, according to figures it released Friday. That large turnout reflects a growing global focus on addressing climate change and the perilous state of peace and security.

Other countries will be represented by ministers and vice presidents—except Afghanistan, whose leaders are in a hotly contested presidential campaign ahead of Sept. 28 elections, and North Korea, which downgraded its representation from a minister to, likely, its U.N. ambassador. Saudi Arabian Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman and Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu canceled plans to attend and are sending ministers.

Environment

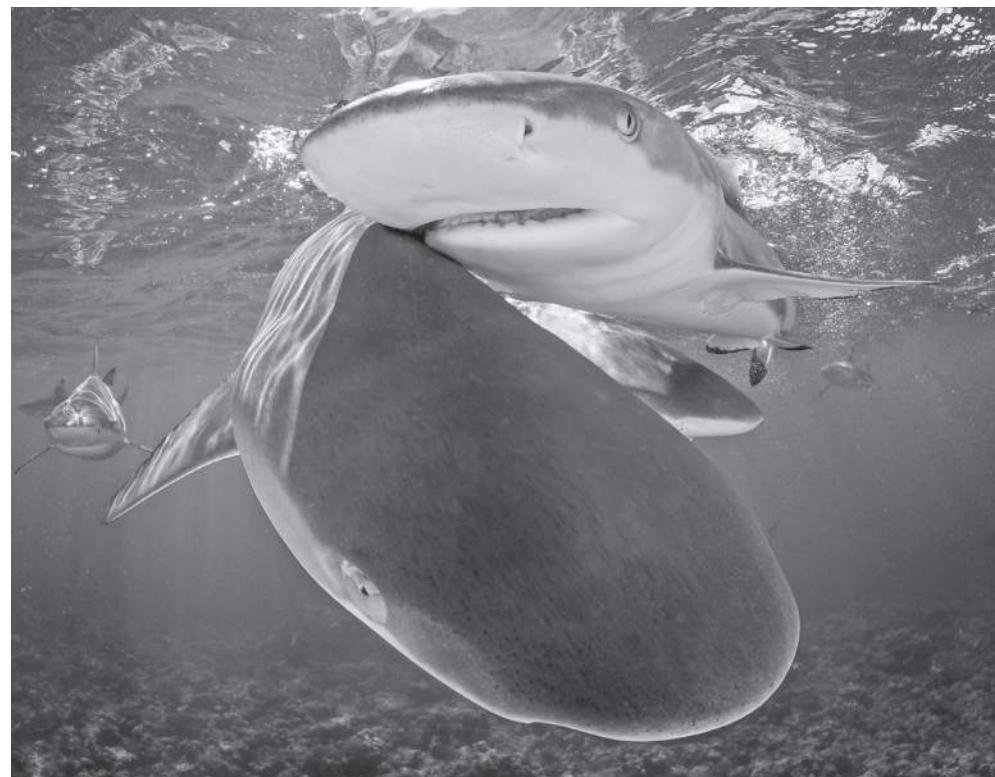
YAP MANTAFEST 2019

Guam underwater photographer wins Best in Class

COLONIA, Yap—Mike Fusco of Guam was not to be deterred by shark-filled waters. In fact, he relished the opportunity to capture a shot of reef blacktip sharks at the ocean's surface up close and personal. Thus, he was the winner of Best in Class for using a dSLR mirrorless camera for his shot at September's MantaFest 2019 held in Colonia, Yap State, in the Federated States of Micronesia.

Now in its 13th year, MantaFest 2019 brought underwater photographers and videographers, both amateur and professional, to the small island of Yap in the western Pacific Ocean to compete for prizes, attend workshops, take tours of the island, and experience the unique and well-preserved culture of Yap. The photo school and contest will run again next year from Aug. 31 to Sept. 15.

The other grand prize winners were Judy Bennett of New Orleans, LA (USA) for her video of Blacktip Sharks; Sheila



Ott of Les Monts-de-Corsier (Switzerland) for Best of Show of a pelagic Diamond Head Squid cannibalizing another

of its own species during a late night blackwater dive; and Katja Jakobsen of Smorum, (Denmark) for Best of Class/

Non-dSLR and her shot of two of Yap's resident manta rays. MantaFest 2019 ran from Aug. 24 through Sept 8. Prizes

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
This shot by Guam's Mike Fusco Best won him Best in Class at September's MantaFest 2019.

were dive vacations and gear from leading manufacturers of diving and photo equipment to include Dive Damai, The Siren Fleet, Truk Odyssey Adventures, Ikelite and Mares.

Daily underwater shoots provided opportunities to dive with the resident population of manta rays, sharks and other creatures that inhabit the surrounding protected reef and steep coral walls. Workshops were led by an international panel of photography and journalism experts providing their help underwater with imaging and above water knowledge of editing workflow and software. They also offered advice during sessions with local models in settings that included the island's unique stone money banks. There was also an afternoon and evening

of traditional dance performances, food and activities thanks to the A Taste of Yap event held by the Yap Visitors Bureau and local businesses.

Fishermen know the pain of "the one that got away." Underwater photographers also joke about the pain of the perfect photo taken the day after the MantaFest awards have been handed out.

To help compensate, Bill Acker, owner of the Manta Ray Bay Resort & Yap Divers, created the "Crying Towel Award" for the photographer with the best image captured the day after. Judy Bennett's video of a Zebra Shark waking up and swimming off into the channel won a special edition MARES-Just Add Water mask and snorkel and the custom crying towel.

For more information about this year's winners and the 2020 event, go to www.mantafest.com or visit @mantaraybay. (PR)

UOG Sea Grant engages with Korea counterparts



Korea Sea Grant Week 2019, which took place from Aug. 28 to Aug. 30, brought together National Sea Grant programs, including University of Guam Sea Grant, with those in South Korea at the Pohang University of Science and Technology.

University of Guam Sea Grant director Dr. Austin J. Shelton and Program Leader Fran Castro engaged with sister programs on shared environmental challenges and goals toward sustainability at Korea Sea Grant Week 2019.

The two were part of a U.S. Sea Grant delegation to the event, which took place from Aug. 28 to Aug. 30 at the Pohang University of Science and Technology.

The three-day conference was a productive exchange between the National Sea Grant

programs and their counterparts in South Korea on their successes and challenges.

In particular, Shelton and Castro interacted with leaders from eight Korea Sea Grant programs and learned about advancements in aquaculture research and ocean monitoring.

"We're happy to continue strengthening our partnerships within the global Sea Grant network," Shelton said.

Additionally, they continued discussions with colleagues on tourism-related research and producing coastal

educational outreach materials for Korean tourists. These discussions began during the UOG Regional Conference on Island Sustainability in 2018, during which the University of Guam signed memorandums of understanding with the Jeju and Chunchong Sea Grant programs.

The partners were once again invited to the 11th UOG Regional Conference on Island Sustainability, to be held from March 30 to April 3.

Additionally, the conference yielded discussions on a joint workshop in the Pacific

to respond to sea level rise. Shelton and Castro also gave a presentation on using the Sea Grant model to improve island sustainability in Guam.

The Korea-U.S. Science Cooperation Center funded the U.S. delegation's visit.

The National Sea Grant College Program is a partnership among universities and the federal National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration that seeks to enhance the practical use and conservation of coastal and marine resources to create a sustainable



UNIVERSITY OF GUAM SEA GRANT University of Guam Sea Grant Director Austin J. Shelton and Program Leader Fran Castro learned about advancements in aquaculture research and ocean monitoring at Korea Sea Grant Week 2019 at the Pohang University of Science and Technology.



UNIVERSITY OF GUAM SEA GRANT University of Guam Sea Grant Director Austin J. Shelton presented on island sustainability through Sea Grant objectives at Korea Sea Grant Week 2019, held at the Pohang University of Science and Technology.

economy and environment. UOG Sea Grant is one of 34 programs across the nation.

For more information on the UOG Sea Grant Program, visit www.uog.edu/seagrant. (PR)



Triple J Saipan, Inc. volunteer-employees pose at the beach front of the Surf Club Saipan Restaurant after taking part in last Saturday's International Coastal Cleanup.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Triple J takes part in Int'l Coastal Cleanup

Triple J Saipan, Inc. and a team of volunteer-employees supported the International Coastal Cleanup hosted by Division of Coastal Resources Management of the Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality last Saturday, Sept. 21.

A team of Triple J employees and their families started at the south end

of Laly 4 Beach and picked up plastic and other debris along the beach and finished at the beachfront of Lino Olopai's property.

"September 2019 honors our 35-year commitment to delivering on our promise of putting our customer's first—a commitment we strive to meet daily at all establishments,"

said Triple J Saipan, Inc. Human Resources director Frank Ada.

"We are happy to share in the opportunity to work with DCRM/BECQ for a second year in a row preserving our island's culture through efforts...to keep our island clean and beautiful. It was a perfect morning for a beach cleanup and an employee volunteer luncheon thereafter," he added. (PR)

Saipan Lions Club gives MHS 12 garbage bins

By IVA MAURIN

iva_maurin@saipantribune.com

REPORTER

The bins will be positioned in designated areas inside the school to help manage trash.

"This will not just help maintain the cleanliness of the campus but also mold young minds on the proper disposal of garbage on and off campus, which will eventually lead to a healthier environment," Mercado said.

About 20 Lion and Leo members participated in the weekend turnover of the recycled bins. Without electric tools, the members had to open the drums manually using only a hammer and a chisel.

Club secretary Mario Mayuga also thanked their partners in the project. "We would like to thank Pacific Rainbow (CNMI), Inc. for the paint donation and USA Fanter Corp. Ltd, Star Water, and Auto Marine Inc. for the drums," he said.



The Saipan Fil-American Lions Club and the Saipan Mighty Dolphins Leo Club donate 12 trash bins to the Marianas High School last Monday, Sept. 23.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

A G R A D E S I M E N T O

IN HUMBLE GRATITUDE, WE THE FAMILY OF THE LATE

†JUAN IGLECIAS DELEON GUERRERO



wish to extend our deepest and warmest appreciation to all our relatives and friends from near and far, for your genuine compassion you showed us during our greatest and most painful time of sorrow. Your thoughtful prayers, comfort, and unending support and other considerate acts of grace did much to calm the aches in our hearts and may time lessen our pain as memories gently turn tears into smiles. We acknowledge and cherish the time you devoted to us. Your kindness has touched us all and we will forever remember you.

Mansen magof ham in ekstiende un sineru yan dangkulu na Si Yu'us Ma'ase para todo I familia yan man-atungo siha pot tinayuyot yan finat'ton-miyo duranten I pininiten-mame. Todo I tiempo bai hahaso hamyo gi tinayuyot-mame ni familial I defuntu as

Juan



DANGKULO NA SI YU'US MA'ASE GINEN AS VIOLA S. DELEON GUERRERO YAN I FAMILIA

Life & Style

TORONTO (AP)—For Renee Zellweger, the task of becoming Judy Garland was too daunting to contemplate all at once. Such a character needed to be assembled piecemeal: a bit-by-bit metamorphosis starting with the voice, followed by workshopping the songs and then building in the mannerisms, the hair, the make-up, the stage presence, and so on.

"It was a series of experiments, an exploration that we all shared trying to understand and see what was possible, seeing what we could conjure," says Zellweger. "It was always in motion."

The accumulation of all those layers, in Rupert Goold's "Judy," can feel like a magic act. There are no signs of the nearly two years of work that went into Zellweger's Garland, just the dazzlingly detailed final draft. "I felt like we took hundreds of little steps away from Renee," says Goold, the British theater director.

And yet as much as Zellweger's performance is a whole-bodied acting feat, it's not mere mimicry. Her Garland may be show-stopping Oscar bait, but it's also a delicate and deeply felt character study. Its power lies in the fusion between Zellweger and Garland—how they naturally connect despite diverging

in drastic ways. Both were American sweethearts whose public personas, forged at the heights of fame, cleaved away from them.

"I understand the differences between the projections that land on a public persona and the truth of the human experience," says Zellweger. "There are certain things about her experiences that I understand having lived the life inside Hollywood."

In "Judy," based on Peter Quilter's stage musical "End of the Rainbow," Zellweger, 50, is playing Garland in 1968, at 46, just months before she died of an accidental overdose.

Garland, having exhausted all her other opportunities, is performing—sometimes gloriously, often shambolically—a five-week run of shows at the London cabaret Talk of the Town. Plagued by health and financial woes, she's been chewed and spit out by the Hollywood machine that made her the star of "The Wizard of Oz" and "A Star Is Born."

Full Coverage: Fall Films

She's also haunted by flashbacks with MGM chief Louis B. Mayer, who turned her into one of the most famous people on the planet but who also fiercely controlled her. The executive is depicted as being responsible for her addiction to



Zellweger

on her empathy and adoration for Judy Garland

diet pills, preying on her insecurities (he called her "my little hunchback") and, according to an unpublished memoir by Garland, regularly groped her.

"Judy," which opens in select theaters Friday, is about an indomitable performer whose deepest traumas have come from the very thing she loves. It has obvious parallels to the current #MeToo era of Hollywood. Zellweger, herself,

was one of Harvey Weinstein's most consistent stars. He was partly or significantly behind Zellweger's three Oscar-nominated roles ("Bridget Jones's Diary," "Chicago" and "Cold Mountain," for which she won).

Zellweger has said her experiences with the producer never approached the kind of abuse others have detailed. But the Texas-native (whose high-profile romances have included Jim Carrey, Jack

White, Bradley Cooper and Kenny Chesney, to whom she was briefly married) is well acquainted with the way an onslaught of fame and the cycles of show business can turn destructive.

Sara Gilbert: 'The Conners' works because it's relatable

NEW YORK

(AP)—TV revivals are usually met with fanfare, but some—like "Murphy Brown"—failed to click with the audience. An exception is the sitcom "The Conners," a spinoff of "Roseanne."



was canceled by ABC in 2018 after star Roseanne Barr made a racist tweet about Valerie Jarrett, a former adviser to President Barack Obama. The network fired Barr. The comedienne said she is not a bigot and apologized.

Ratings for the first season of the series exceeded ABC's expectations. The second season launches Tuesday.

Sara Gilbert, who plays sarcastic single mom Darlene Conner, thinks "The Conners" works because it's relatable.

"We're just really lucky that it's a timely revival, that we're talking about the middle class and the struggle of the middle class and that's as relevant as ever," Gilbert said. "We're lucky that these characters resonate with people and people relate to them and I guess there's a timelessness about that."

"The Conners" follows the family of "Roseanne" as it struggles to make ends meet, squabbles and grieves the loss of its matriarch, who died from an opioid overdose.

The "Roseanne" reboot

"We love making the show and we always have loved making it," Gilbert said.

Though she's an executive producer on the series, Gilbert brushes off the notion that she has any sort of boss status over castmates she began working with in the late 80s.

"I'm not really the boss," she said. "I feel like I'm trying to make them happy and make sure the show stays great for all the actors that are willing to do it and it's up to them every year if they want to come back and do it and I just feel like it's my job to make it a happy place to work with a great outcome."

Medieval masterpiece by Cimabue rediscovered in French house

PARIS (AP)—A masterpiece attributed to 13th century Italian painter Cimabue has been discovered in a French woman's kitchen—and it's expected to sell for millions of euros at an upcoming auction.

Titled "Christ Mocked," the small wood painting depicts Christ surrounded by a crowd. Experts think it to be part of a larger diptych Cimabue painted around 1280, said Stephane

Pinta, an art specialist with the Turquin gallery in Paris.

"It's a major discovery for the history of art," Pinta said of the newly discovered work measuring about 10 inches by 8 inches (24 centimeters by 20 centimeters). Other experts agreed.

Until recently, the painting hung on a wall between the kitchen and the dining room of a home in Compiègne. The woman considered it an icon

of little importance until an auctioneer spotted the painting while going through her house and suggested bringing it to art experts, Pinta said.

Cimabue, who taught Italian master Giotto, is widely considered the forefather of the Italian Renaissance. He broke from the Byzantine style popular in the Middle Ages and incorporated elements of movement and per-

spective that came to characterize Western painting.

After examining the French kitchen find, Turquin gallery specialists concluded with "certitude" it bore hallmarks of Cimabue's work, Pinta said.

They noted clear similarities with the two panels of Cimabue's diptych, one displayed at the Frick Collection in New York and the other at the National Gallery in London.

Domingo withdraws from Met Opera after harassment reports

NEW YORK (AP)—The Metropolitan Opera announced Tuesday that Plácido Domingo had agreed to withdraw from his slate of scheduled performances at the opera house following allegations of sexual harassment made by multiple women in two Associated Press stories. The opera legend indicated that he would never again perform at the Met.

Domingo had been scheduled to sing the title role in the season premiere of Verdi's "Macbeth" on Wednesday night, which would have been his first performance in the United States since the AP reported that nu-

merous women had accused him of inappropriate behavior, including one soprano who said he grabbed her bare breast.

The Met had been under increasing pressure to cancel Domingo's appearances, but general manager Peter Gelb reiterated to performers after a dress rehearsal Saturday that the opera house was awaiting results of investigations by the LA Opera, where Domingo has been general director since 2003, and the American Guild of Musi-



Domingo

cal Artists, the union that represents various opera staff.

Domingo, who had sung in rehearsals, issued a statement saying his Met career was over after what the company said was

706 performances as a singer, plus 169 as a conductor.

"I made my debut at the Metropolitan Opera at the age of 27 and have sung at this magnificent theater for 51 consecutive, glorious years," the star said. "While I strongly dispute recent allegations made about me, and I am

concerned about a climate in which people are condemned without due process, upon reflection, I believe that my appearance in this production of 'Macbeth' would distract from the hard work of my colleagues both on stage and behind the scenes.

"As a result, I have asked to withdraw," he added, "and I thank the leadership of the Met for graciously granting my request. I am happy that, at the age of 78, I was able to sing the wonderful title role in the dress rehearsal of 'Macbeth,' which I consider my last performance on the Met stage."

Fox apologizes for 'disgraceful' comment about Thunberg

NEW YORK (AP)—Fox News has apologized for a guest's "disgraceful" description of environmental activist Greta Thunberg as mentally ill but was silent Tuesday on Laura Ingraham likening her to a murderous cult of children from a Stephen King story.

The network responded swiftly to a news segment Monday where Michael Knowles of "The Daily Wire" said the 16-year-old environmentalist was a "mentally ill Swedish child who is being

exploited by her parents and by the international left."

Knowles was immediately called out by a fellow guest, podcast host Chris Hahn, who said, "You're a grown man and you've attacked a child. Shame on you."

Hahn called on Knowles to immediately apologize. He didn't and won't get a chance again on Fox. The network later apologized to Thunberg and viewers for the comment and said it had no plans to book Knowles, who has no tie to the network, again.

A couple hours later Ingraham, one of the network's prime-time stars, said she found some of Thunberg's remarks before the United Nations that scolded officials for not acting on climate change to be chilling. She juxtaposed a portion of the speech with a clip from the 1984 horror film, "Children of the Corn." Based on a King story, the film is about children in a Nebraska town being persuaded to kill the adults.

"I can't wait for Stephen King's sequel, 'Children of the

Climate,'" Ingraham said.

Fox said it had no comment on Ingraham's segment.

In an interview with The Associated Press last week, Thunberg said that she takes

"Shark Tank" star Kevin O'Leary's wife charged in boat crash

TORONTO (AP)—The wife of "Shark Tank" star Kevin O'Leary has been charged with careless operation of a vessel in a fatal boat crash in Canada, authorities said Tuesday.

Ontario Provincial Police Sgt. Carolle Dionne said 56-year-old Linda O'Leary of Toronto is scheduled to appear in court on Oct. 29.

Two boats crashed Aug. 24 on Lake Joseph near Seguin, Ontario, killing 64-year-old Gary Poltash of Florida and a 48-year-old woman identified as Susanne Brito, a mother of

three.

personal criticism as proof that activists are making a difference.

"You just have to ignore them because they are just so desperately trying to remove

the focus from the climate crisis to make it become something about me as an individual," she said. "When they do that, I mean, they don't have any arguments left."

penalty O'Leary faces is 18 months imprisonment or a \$1 million fine.

Brian Greenspan, O'Leary's lawyer, said it is regrettable and inappropriate that police have decided to charge her with a "regulatory offense under the shipping act."

"She has always been a cautious and experienced boater who came into collision with an unlit craft on a dark and moonless night," she said. "The other boat was sitting in a dark spot on a lake, no cottage lights nearby, no moon."

A previously unreleased track from Franklin is coming out

NEW YORK (AP)—Christmas is bringing the gift of a previously unreleased Aretha Franklin recording.

"Big Band Holidays II" from the Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra with Wynton Marsalis has a holiday album

that will feature the late icon singing "O Tannenbaum."

Franklin performed the song as she played the piano at a 2015 holiday concert at Jazz at Lincoln Center; her performance of the classic, in both English and German,

was a surprise.

It will be featured on the album, which is being digitally released on Oct. 25 and will be in stores on Nov. 8. Few songs have been released from Franklin since her death in August 2018.



Tom Hanks to receive Cecil B. DeMille Award at Golden Globes

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Tom Hanks became one of Hollywood's beloved actors through an array of likable roles, from "Big" to "Forrest Gump," and now his decorated career has earned him one of the highest honors at the Golden Globes next year.

Hanks will receive the Cecil B. DeMille Award at the Golden Globe Awards on Jan. 5, 2020, the Hollywood Foreign Press Association announced Tuesday. The actor has won praise for a string of compelling characters in movies including "Saving Private Ryan," the "Toy Story" films, and the Golden Globe-winning "Cast Away,"

for which he lost 55 pounds to play a man stranded on a desert island.

HFPA President Lorenzo Soria said in a statement that Hanks captivated audiences with "rich and playful characters." He said the actor was also a force behind the camera as writer, producer and director.

The DeMille Award is given annually to an "individual who has made an incredible impact on the world of entertainment."

Past recipients include Jeff Bridges, Oprah Winfrey, Morgan Freeman, Meryl Streep, Jodie Foster, Barbra Streisand, Sidney Poitier and Lucille Ball.

Hanks, 63, is a four-time Golden Globe winner who broke through with his role in the 1984 film "Splash," in which he played a man who falls in love with a mermaid. He claimed his first Globe in 1988 for "Big," in which he portrayed a 13-year-old boy whose body turned into a 35-year-old man overnight after making a wish.

The actor won a couple Globes for "Philadelphia" and "Forrest Gump," two films that earned him Academy Awards. He was also lauded for his directing work in HBO's 2001 miniseries "Band of Brothers," which won an Emmy.

Bill Cosby hit with \$2.75M legal bill after losing dispute

PHILADELPHIA (AP)—Bill Cosby has been hit with a \$2.75 million legal bill as he marks the end of his first year in prison.

The 82-year-old Cosby had challenged a California arbitration award that upheld nearly \$7 million of a \$9 million bill submitted by just one firm in the run-up to his first

sexual assault trial in Pennsylvania in 2017.

A judge sided Friday with Quinn Emanuel Urquhart & Sullivan, of Los Angeles, rejecting Cosby's claim that the bill was "egregious."

Cosby spokesman Andrew Wyatt isn't commenting on the fee dispute.

But he says the actor is

holding up well in a suburban Philadelphia prison, mentoring other inmates as he marks a year in prison Wednesday.

Cosby is serving three to 10 years for drugging and molesting a woman in 2004. The Pennsylvania Superior Court is weighing his appeal of the 2018 conviction.

Friend's new wife overshares about couple's married life

DEAR ABBY: My husband's best friend remarried a couple of years ago, and the new wife, "Jane," is a handful. When we get together, she's as free-spirited and open as you can get, sexually. She hangs on her husband like a magnet, grabbing at him provocatively and letting everyone know anything and everything about her sexual attraction and their sex life.

At first it was funny, since they were newlyweds and all, but it isn't funny any longer. Frankly, it's nauseating. I would like to get together more often, minus the X-rated show. I'm concerned that if I say something (and everyone knows I don't usually bite my tongue), it will cause a major rift between all of us. I don't want to keep my husband from his best friend. Any advice?

MATURE ONE IN INDIANA

DEAR MATURE ONE: When Jane's behavior presents itself, ask her to tone it down because it makes you uncomfortable. If that doesn't work, the only guaranteed way for Jane's antics to not bother you will be for you to encourage your husband to socialize separately with his best friend so you see Jane as little as possible.

DEAR ABBY: I am a gay man. A few weeks ago, a neighbor I became close to confided to me that her husband is homophobic. When she said he wasn't comfortable around me, I agreed

with her that it was best to give them both space and discontinue our friendship. Then her husband approached me and apologized. He told me he is not homophobic, and he wants to be friends, so I decided to forgive.

Lately, he has been trying to include me in his friend group within the neighborhood. I appreciate it, but part of me in all honesty is a bit afraid. Not knowing what he may have mentioned to his friends and how they may treat me has me worried. Should I try and be friends with them and try to repair the friendship? Or should I let it go?

OUT AND PROUD IN PENNSYLVANIA

DEAR OUT AND PROUD: I'd hate to see you isolate yourself. Integrating the neighborhood would be beneficial to all. Give it a try, gauge the way these individuals treat you and make your final decision then.

DEAR ABBY: I work with a wonderful older woman. She is smart, funny, and comes to work with a positive attitude. Unfortunately, she smells of cat urine. It's really bad -- to the point I have moved out of our shared office, and there are plans to move her into her own office. However, that may be months off. She still has office mates, and she's in kind of a "hub."

She lives alone with two dogs and an unknown (to me) number of cats. Her children are grown but don't live nearby. How

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.



can I kindly address this with her? I don't want to hurt her feelings, but something has got to give. I have let management know, but they are reluctant to address this.

NOSE KNOWS IN THE SOUTH

DEAR NOSE: It is not your job to address this problem with your co-worker. It is management's responsibility. Because you have complained and nothing was done, it's time for the others who are affected by the odor to address management about it COLLECTIVELY.

Abby shares more than 100 of her favorite recipes in two booklets: "Abby's Favorite Recipes" and "More Favorite Recipes by Dear Abby." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$16 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Cookbook Set, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Nats eliminate Phillies, clinch wild card

**WASHING-
TON (AP)**—
Dave Martinez's words were drenched with emotion as he stood in a booze-soaked clubhouse, Washington Nationals players celebrating all around after clinching an NL wild card exactly four months after they woke up with a 19-31 record and calls for him to be replaced as manager.

Quite a turnaround for Martinez—and for his club.

"They don't want to go home. They want to keep playing," Martinez said Tuesday night, wearing the same red T-shirt reading "Let's get wild" as his players had on. "They don't quit."

Trea Turner's go-ahead grand slam in the sixth inning lifted Washington to a 6-5 comeback victory over the Philadelphia Phillies for a doubleheader sweep that assured the Nationals of extending their season and eliminated the Phillies from playoff contention.

"They're resilient. Perfect example: Tonight they were down, but they never feel like they're out," Martinez said. "They stick together. And here we are, going to the postseason."

He missed three full games and part of another this month because of a heart issue; the 54-year-old skipper was back in the dugout four days after having a cardiac catheterization.

"They keep telling me how much they want to play for me," Martinez said in the mayhem, his voice cracking. "And I tell them it's not about me. It's about us. Just play for us."

Washington is returning to the playoffs for the fifth time in eight years after sitting out October in 2018, when the team went 82-80 in Martinez's rookie year as a manager.

Things started roughly in 2019: Washington was 12 games below .500 after a loss on May 23 concluded a four-game sweep at the New York Mets.

At that point, the Nationals were fourth in the NL East, thanks to defensive sloppiness, bad baserunning and, above all, unreliable-as-can-be work from the bullpen.

But Martinez retained his always-sunny disposition and remained in his post, unwilling to publicly criticize his players and, in a participation-trophy sort of way, often pointing out how hard they had tried in defeat.

Eventually, things clicked. Washington went on a real roll, even playing winning baseball while Max Scherzer took two trips to the injured list with a back muscle problem.

Brewers 4, Reds 2

In Cincinnati, Ryan Braun



AP Washington Nationals starting pitcher Max Scherzer throws to the Philadelphia Phillies in the first inning of the second baseball game of a doubleheader, Tuesday, Sept. 24, 2019, in Washington.

drove a 3-1 pitch from Carson Fulmer (1-2) into the right-field stands with two outs in the first inning for his second career grand slam.

Red Sox 12, Rangers 10

In Arlington, Eduardo Rodriguez labored through five innings to get his 19th win, allowing more runs than he had in his previous seven starts combined, and Boston beat Texas. Rodriguez (19-6) exited with a 12-7 lead after throwing 113 pitches.

Boston (82-75) clinched a winning record while the Rangers (75-82), who opened their final homestand before moving into a new stadium next year, will have their third straight losing season. Brandon Workman, the fourth Boston reliever, worked the ninth for his 16th save in 22 chances.

Royals 9, Braves 6

In Kansas City In Kansas City's first game after manager Ned Yost announced he will retire after the season, the lowly Royals burst to a six-run lead in the first three innings and beat NL East champion Atlanta behind three hits and two RBIs from Nicky Lopez.

Danny Duffy (7-6) allowed three runs and five hits in five innings, improving to 2-1 in his last six starts.

Julio Teheran (10-11) gave up six runs and six hits in 2 1/3 innings. He has lost three straight starts, giving up 14 earned runs in 11 1/3 innings.

Orioles 11, Blue Jays 4

In Toronto, Trey Mancini had a career-high five hits, DJ Stewart hit a two-run homer and Baltimore beat the Blue Jays. Dwight Smith Jr. and Austin Wynns each hit solo home runs for the Orioles.

With one more victory or a loss by Detroit, the Orioles (51-106) can avoid having baseball's worst record for the second straight season. Right-hander Dylan Bundy (7-14) allowed two runs and three hits in seven innings to win for the first time since Aug. 25.

Scheduled to make his fourth big league appearance, Blue Jays rookie left-hander Anthony Kay was scratched because of back soreness about two hours before the game and replaced by lefty Thomas Pannone (3-6).

added to his record total of homers at Great American Ball Park, and Milwaukee moved a step closer to a wild-card berth with its fifth win in a row.

Just like last season, when Milwaukee put on a late rush

to take the NL Central title, the Brewers have closed in on a playoff spot with a September flourish. They've won 16 of 18, positioning themselves for one of the NL wild cards along with Washington. They can clinch Wednesday with a win or losses by the Cubs and Mets.

Braun connected for his 21st homer off Sonny Gray (11-8), making the final start of his All-Star season. Braun's 27 homers at Great American are the most by a visiting player.

Brent Suter (4-0) allowed three hits in three relief innings. Josh Hader allowed a pair of hits in the ninth before fanning Kyle Farmer for his 36th save in 42 chances.

Pirates 9, Cubs 2

In Pittsburgh, freefalling Chicago committed five errors, including two in a seven-run seventh inning, and moved to the brink of elimination with its seventh straight loss.

Chicago dropped to 82-75 and would be eliminated with one more loss or Milwaukee win. The Cubs have not missed the playoffs since 2014.

Aided by a fielding error by second baseman Ben Zobrist and errant throw by reliever Danny Hultzen, the Pirates

sent 13 batters to the plate in the seventh as they chased starter Kyle Hendricks (11-10) and erased a 1-0 deficit. Pittsburgh stopped a nine-game losing streak in which it had been outscored 87-26.

Francisco Liriano (5-3) pitched a perfect seventh. Pittsburgh rookie Mitch Keller gave up one run and seven hits in five innings.

Mets 5, Marlins 4, 11 innings

In New York, three outs from postseason elimination, the Mets tied it 4-all in the ninth when Michael Conforto clocked his second two-run homer of the game, connecting off José Ureña for his 33rd long ball of the season. Brandon Nimmo won it by working a bases-loaded walk in the 11th against rookie Jeff Brigham.

After wins by Washington and Milwaukee earlier in the day, the Mets needed a victory to stay in the playoff race. They are tied with the plummeting Chicago Cubs, five games behind the Brewers for the second NL wild card with five to play.

Conforto drew a leadoff walk from Adam Conley (2-10) in the 11th, and Brigham hit Amed Rosario with a 97 mph fastball. A wild pitch advanced both runners before Todd Frazier was intentionally walked. One out later, Nimmo walked on a 3-1 pitch to force in the winning run.

Paul Sewald (1-1), the sev-

enth Mets pitcher, struck out two in a perfect inning for his first major league win in his 119th appearance.

Twins 4, Tigers 2

In Detroit, Willians Astudillo and Eddie Rosario fueled a four-run seventh inning, and Minnesota dodged an injury scare for starter Jake Odorizzi to move closer to an AL Central title.

Odorizzi (15-7) pitched two-hit ball through six innings but was pulled with a tight left hamstring after warming up for the seventh. He later said he had a cramp and expected to be fine.

The Twins improved to 97-60, their most victories since going 98-64 in 1970. Minnesota's magic number to clinch the division is two over Cleveland. Taylor Rogers pitched a perfect ninth for his 29th save.

Detroit (46-110) reached 110 losses for the second time, 16 years after setting the AL record of 119. With one more loss or a win by Baltimore, the club would be assured the No. 1 pick in next year's amateur draft.

Spencer Turnbull (3-16) allowed two runs—both scoring after he left the game—on six hits and two walks in six-plus innings.

Rays 2, Yankees 1

In St. Petersburg, Ji-Man Choi hit a game-ending home run in the 12th inning that helped Tampa Bay remain on track for an AL wild card

berth after New York's CC Sabathia pitched a perfect inning in his first regular season relief appearance.

Choi homered off Cory Gearrin (1-3) after Pete Fairbanks (2-3) struck out Brett Gardner with a runner on second and two outs in the top half.

Tampa Bay remained a half-game ahead of Cleveland for the second AL wild card.

Sabathia, a 39-year-old left-hander who is retiring at the end of the season, had made 560 regular season starts but is being moved to the bullpen along with J.A. Happ ahead of the postseason.

Indians 11, White Sox 0

In Chicago, José Ramírez hit a grand slam and a three-run homer in his first two plate appearances after missing a month with a broken hand, and Cleveland pounded the White Sox.

Roberto Pérez and Óscar Mercado also went deep for the Indians, who won for the sixth time in seven games to remain a half-game back of Tampa Bay for the second AL wild card.

Mike Clevinger (13-3) pitched seven innings of five-hit ball and struck out 10 while extending his scoreless streak to 18 innings.

The switch-hitting Ramírez homered from both sides for the fourth time. He finished with a career-best seven RBIs. Batting left-handed, Ramírez

Nets not planning for Durant to play this season



NEW YORK (AP)—The Brooklyn Nets expect to wait a year before Kevin Durant plays for them.

General manager Sean Marks said Tuesday the Nets are planning this season without the injured All-Star. He added Durant will have a say in determining when he's ready.

"With Kevin, I think what we're going to say is the expectations are that he'll be out for the year," Marks said.

Durant is recovering from surgery to repair a ruptured Achilles tendon. He was injured while playing for Golden State in the NBA Finals, then left the Warriors to sign with the Nets in July.

At the time, the Nets left open the possibility that Durant could play this season. That's still possible, but Marks isn't banking on it.

"I've been excited to see, I think we all have, how he's approached this rehab, which has been great, very refreshing and energizing for the whole group," Marks said. "But at the end of the day, this is a long-term plan here. This was never about this next season. This is about getting an elite athlete back to elite physical shape on the court, whatever that takes."

Durant returned from an in-

jured calf muscle he suffered in the postseason for Game 5 of the NBA Finals, but lasted only 12 minutes before leaving with a more severe injury.

Marks said Durant hasn't given any indication that he plans to take things slowly.

"I think you're looking at one of the great competitors out there, so I think I would be remiss if I said no, he probably doesn't want to play," Marks said. "I think it's obvious he wants to play, but I think there's more at stake here."

"This is, again, a long-term approach. There are a lot of people with a lot of sweat equity in this from the rehab perspective and so forth. And so I think it'll be a group that makes the decision, and obviously Kevin included as to when and how that return is made."

In the meantime, Marks thinks Durant will try to be around his new team, though he can't predict how much. He isn't even sure yet whether Durant will accompany the Nets to China next month for their exhibition games against the Los Angeles Lakers.

Durant is expected to speak Friday when the Nets hold their media day.

He signed with Brooklyn along with fellow All-Star Kyrie Irving, who was hurt Tuesday when he was elbowed



AP In this April 26, 2019 file photo, the then Golden State Warriors forward Kevin Durant, left, shoots as Los Angeles Clippers guard Lou Williams defends during the first half in Game 6 of a first-round NBA basketball playoff series in Los Angeles.

9.2 points per game and make the NBA All-Rookie Second Team in his first season. In the 2017-2018 season, his average dropped to 7.7 points per game.

Last season, the 6-foot-10 Chriss saw playing time in 16 games for the Houston Rockets and 27 for the Cleveland Cavaliers. He averaged just 4.2 points per game, and 11.6 minutes, in those 43 contests.

Chriss has a steep uphill battle ahead of him to actually make the Warriors' squad.

In Boston, with training camp about to begin and the Celtics looking to add a 20th player to their camp roster, they reportedly had come to terms last week with 6-foot-8 forward Yante Maten. Now, it was reported the Celtics never executed that signing and instead have signed guard Bryce Brown.

Both players were All-SEC selections. Brown, a 6-3 guard, led Auburn to the Final Four last season, and Maten was signed by the Miami Heat out of Georgia in 2018. Brown went undrafted this past June and played for the Sacramento Kings' Summer League team.

Maten played two games for the Heat last season and spent the rest of the season with their G-League affiliate, the Sioux Falls Skyforce. He could still find his way to the Celtics' G-League team, the Maine Red Claws, where Brown is likely headed after camp.

In Charlotte, Terry Rozier is going to play a big role with the Charlotte Hornets this season.

After signing a three-year, \$58 million free-agent deal, the former Celtics point guard goes from a backup role in Boston to replacing Kemba Walker as the starter in Charlotte.

So naturally, Rozier, who, after the season complained about the "sacrifices" he made in his time as a Celtics reserve, will see a significant playing time increase in his new role. According to The Athletic's Rod Boone, first-year Hornets coach James Borrego said Rozier's minutes will nearly double from last season.

In his four-year tenure with the Celtics, Rozier, 25, taken 16th overall by Boston in the 2015 draft, averaged 7.7 points, 3.6 rebounds and 2.3 assists per game. He significantly increased his stock over the past two seasons by averaging 11.3 points through the 2017-18 season.

LaMelo Ball getting No. 1 pick buzz from scouts

LaVar Ball predicted time and time again that all three of his sons would be NBA players. But hey, two out of three isn't bad.

The youngest Ball brother, LaMelo, was forced to skip college due to eligibility concerns (having played professionally in Lithuania and the now-defunct JBA). He ultimately accepted a Next Stars contract with the NBL's Illawarra Hawks in Australia.

Despite being among the most famous high school prospects ever, LaMelo and his game were mostly enigmas. He was impressive in a high school return with SPIRE (Ohio) and played well against pros in the Drew League—albeit in contests at a pickup-game pace. But how would LaMelo respond in a competitive league against legitimate professional competition? That was the real question with the Australia move.

So far, LaMelo has more than passed the test.

In the latest mock draft from ESPN's Jonathan Givony, LaMelo has jumped to the projected No. 3 overall pick with a possibility of going No. 1 next summer. Ball

was described as a possible MVP candidate in the NBL, and the 27 NBA scouts who made trips to watch him play last week were blown away.

"If he keeps this up, I don't see any way he isn't in the conversation for the No. 1 overall pick," one NBA executive said. "He completely changed my perception of the type of prospect he is, and all of the background info I gathered here from his coaches and teammates paint a very different story of what I thought about him off the court as well."

Even Atlanta Hawks coach Matt Flinn raved about LaMelo and added that he hadn't heard from LaVar Ball yet, which is a good thing.

"He's exceeded expectations. He's come with absolutely zero baggage. He's assimilated into his teammates, and they genuinely like having him around," Flinn said.

NBA teams will have plenty of opportunities to evaluate LaMelo in the coming months, and we should note that these impressions were made from preseason friendlies. But LaMelo has the size and confidence to be a legit top-five pick, and thus far, he's brought the game as well.

during a pickup game. Marks doesn't believe the injury is serious, although Irving went for an evaluation accompanied by coach Kenny Atkinson.

When Durant and Irving join a team that won 42 games and made the playoffs last season, the Nets could turn into one of the top contenders in the Eastern Conference. They know it could take a season.

"I don't know that all the guys we signed in the offseason are coming here for mediocrity," Marks said. "That's not part of it. This is why we went in."

Meanwhile, the NBA fined the Milwaukee Bucks \$50,000 on Tuesday over a comment general manager Jon Horst made about the team's plans to offer league MVP Giannis Antetokounmpo a "supermax" extension.

The league says Horst violated league rules "governing the timing of discussions regarding future player contracts and permissible commitments

to players." The Bucks cannot publicly commit to offering anyone a supermax until the summer following that player's seventh season.

Antetokounmpo is entering his seventh season. He would be eligible to sign a record five-year extension worth nearly \$250 million in July 2020, with that new deal beginning in the 2021-22 season.

Horst was asked at a televised event about the status of Antetokounmpo's long-term contract. He replied by saying "right now, you can't talk and negotiate anything. Giannis, basically, a year from now, will be eligible for a supermax extension. At that time, of course, he'll be offered a supermax extension."

In Washington, Wizards forward Troy Brown Jr. has injured his left calf and is expected to miss about a month, the latest in a series of injuries the team is dealing with as the season approaches.

The Wizards said Tuesday

that Brown strained his calf a day earlier during what the team called a routine workout.

Washington opens the regular season a month from Monday.

Brown averaged 4.8 points, 2.8 rebounds and 1.5 assists in 52 games as a rookie last season after getting drafted in the first round out of Oregon.

Wizards point guard John Wall is expected to miss most, if not all, of next season because of a ruptured Achilles tendon. Another guard, Isaiah Thomas, had surgery on his left thumb last week and could miss two months.

Forward C.J. Miles had surgery for a stress fracture in his left foot in July.

In Oakland, the Golden State Warriors have signed free agent forward Marquese Chriss to a one-year deal.

Chriss, 22, was picked No. 8 overall in the 2016 draft by the Sacramento Kings, but was traded to the Phoenix Suns and went on to average

Mobility key for young QBs thrown onto field early

NEW YORK—It's an NFL rite each season that young quarterbacks find themselves playing early whether because of high draft status, injuries or simply a struggling team looking for a spark.

Injuries already have forced Gardner Minshew of the Jaguars, Mason Rudolph in Pittsburgh and Kyle Allen of Carolina into the lineup, while the Giants decided the future is now in turning from Eli Manning to Daniel Jones.

They're all getting their chance to show what they can do with Dwayne Haskins potentially on deck soon in Washington.

They often find themselves behind porous offensive lines or facing defenses that make getting the ball out quickly a challenge. So the ability to extend plays against NFL pressure is the biggest key—even if athleticism comes in a lot of different ways for quarterbacks, according to Jaguars offensive coordinator John DeFilippo.

"There are a lot of guys like Nick Foles, Tom Brady, who aren't the fastest guys out there, but have tremendous pocket athleticism in terms of being able to throw off-balanced, being able to move in the pocket and keep their feet in the throw," DeFilippo said.

"Pocket athleticism and playing quarterback in this league is a very huge attribute to have."

Some of the younger quarterbacks are also quick on their feet. Baltimore's Lamar Jackson ranks in the top 20 of the NFL's leading rushers, while Arizona drafted Kyler Murray with the No. 1 overall pick in April for that reason. Patrick Mahomes of Kansas City won the 2018 NFL MVP award by making plays in and out of the pocket.

The New York Giants turned to Jones, the sixth pick overall in April out of Duke, looking to someone who brings more mobility to the quarterback position than Eli Manning. The 38-year-old



AP
New York Giants quarterback Daniel Jones (8) gets sacked by Tampa Bay Buccaneers linebacker Carl Nassib (94) during the second half of an NFL football game Sunday, Sept. 22, 2019, in Tampa, Fla.

ing cornerback/punt returner Marcus Sherels and wide receiver Laquon Treadwell.

The moves were made on Tuesday, when the Vikings placed wide receiver/punt returner Chad Beebe on injured reserve with an ankle injury and waived linebacker Devante Downs.

Beebe was hurt on Sunday in a win over Oakland, when he fumbled for the third time in the past two games. He had two catches for 70 yards.

With Josh Doctson already on injured reserve, the Vikings needed more depth behind Adam Thielen and Stefon Diggs. Treadwell was cut by the Vikings at the end of training camp, after the 2016 first-round draft pick totaled just 56 catches and 517 yards over his first three years in the NFL.

Sherels signed with New Orleans as a free agent in the spring but was let go before the regular season. He has played nine years for the Vikings, holding franchise records for punt return touchdowns (five) and average (10.6 yards).

In Buffalo, the Bills have promoted defensive tackle Kyle Peko from their practice squad to replace Harrison Phillips, who was placed on injured reserve.

The move was announced Tuesday, two days after Phillips tore a ligament in his left knee in the final minutes of a 21-17 win over Cincinnati. The second-year player had been evenly splitting snaps with Star Lotulelei over the past two weeks.

Peko combined to play in seven games with Denver in 2016 and '17, and was signed to Buffalo's practice squad a year ago.

veteran has only seven career rushing touchdowns and never averaged more than 2.2 rushing attempts a game in any of his previous 15 seasons.

Jones ran for 1,323 yards and 17 touchdowns in his career at Duke, and he debuted Sunday by becoming the first rookie quarterback since 1970 with at least 300 yards passing, two TD passes and two rushing TDs in a single game leading the Giants to a 32-31 win over Tampa Bay.

The rookie ran only once during the preseason, though Giants coach Pat Shurmur said that wasn't to hide Jones' legs.

"There was only one call there that was going to become a potential run," Shur-

mur said. "Most of the running around were drop back passes where he felt like it was right to scramble."

Minshew averaged only 2.1 yards rushing at Washington State last season. Now filling in for Foles, Minshew ran for 56 yards on six carries in a 13-12 loss to Houston in the first start of his NFL career, including an 18-yard run on fourth-and-10 that gave the Jaguars a chance at a late comeback. He ran four times for 18 yards in Jacksonville's 20-7 victory over Tennessee.

Titans linebacker Jayon Brown said Minshew did everything he needed to win. Minshew's rushing helped the Jaguars (1-2) finish with 88

yards on the ground.

"When the rush lanes were there, he took advantage of it, scrambled and made plays," Brown said.

Minshew still has some "happy feet" moving a bit too much in the pocket, and DeFilippo would like the sixth-round pick to slide a bit earlier too.

"We've talked about that," DeFilippo said. "That just comes with experience and playing time."

With Cam Newton recovering from a mid-foot sprain, the Panthers are keeping Allen, who went undrafted in 2018 out of college, at quarterback for his third career start. Allen averaged only 1.3 yard per carry in college

at Texas A&M and Houston with three TD runs. Allen had three rushes in Carolina's 38-20 win at Arizona and finished with minus-1 yard.

Carolina coach Ron Rivera has no issues with Allen's legs.

"Well I think he has just enough mobility to get him out of some situations," Rivera said. "Once he got a feel for things, he was able to kind of walk away—well I shouldn't say walk—move away from the pressure, and he handled that very well."

Surviving to take the next snap or play the next game is what matters most.

Meanwhile, the Minnesota Vikings have brought back a pair of familiar players, sign-

Messi hurt again, but Barcelona still wins

lona coach Ernesto Valverde said. "But it looks like it's only some minor pain in his abductor (muscle). We replaced him as a precaution. We don't want to take any risks."

Barcelona did not immediately give an official medical report on Messi's problem.

Arthur also scored for the Catalan club, while Santi Cazorla pulled Villarreal closer just before halftime.

The victory helped Barcelona rebound from two recent setbacks and move to fourth place in the league standings, one point behind leader Granada, which earlier Tues-

day drew 1-1 at Valladolid. Athletic Bilbao and Real Madrid have the same 11 points as Granada, but both teams have a game in hand.

Barcelona lost 2-0 to Granada on Saturday, and was held 0-0 by Borussia Dortmund last week in its first Champions League match of the season.

Griezmann opened the scoring with a header from a cross by Messi in the sixth minute for his third goal since joining Barcelona in the offseason.

"We are still far from our best, but with time, as we play



more matches, we will keep improving," Griezmann said.

Arthur added to the lead with a powerful shot from outside the area in the 15th, and Cazorla pulled one back for the visitors in the 44th, also from long range.

Messi hurt his left leg less than half an hour into the match. The playmaker left the field and doctors attended to his leg for few minutes before he eventually returned and finished the half.

Messi, who had been nursing a right calf injury he picked up in the preseason, played his first minutes of the

end but couldn't come up with a goal, Cazorla said. "We played well, but unfortunately we leave without any points."

Barcelona has conceded at least once in all six league games. Its three victories have come at home—against Real Betis, Valencia and Villarreal. It drew at Osasuna and lost the opener at Athletic Bilbao.

Also Tuesday, Real Betis came from behind to defeat Levante 3-1 at home, moving to ninth in the 20-team standings.

On Wednesday, Athletic Bilbao visits Leganés, while Real Madrid hosts Osasuna. Seventh-place Atlético Madrid plays at Mallorca.

"We stayed alive until the

MADRID (AP)—Lionel Messi and Antoine Griezmann gave a glimpse of what the duo can achieve for Barcelona, but the partnership didn't last long because of another injury to Messi.

The Argentina star set up Griezmann's opening goal in the 2-1 win over Villarreal at Camp Nou Stadium on Tuesday, but then had to be replaced at halftime of his first start after a long injury layoff.

Messi, who on Monday won his sixth FIFA player of the year award, didn't return for the second half because of an apparent left leg muscle problem.

"When something happens to Messi, it seems that the world comes to a halt," Barce-

Connie's BBQ outlasts IT&E Light in OT

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
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REPORTER

TSINGTAO Connie's BBQ escaped with a 97-94 overtime win against IT&E Light in a make-up game in the 2019 One Pacific Promotional Basketball League last Tuesday at the Civic Center Court.

Connie's drilled three important free throws in the closing seconds of the extra period to beat IT&E Light. Darwin Barbo made two charities, while John Bongalan had a split to hand Connie's its seventh win in 10 games. Austin Camacho also hit crucial baskets in the overtime, as he scored 6 points, while Bongalan had one field goal, and Nelson Cabang contributed one free throw.

Jaymark De Guzman delivered the last 7 points for IT&E Light in a failed bid to complete the team's comeback after they fell behind by as much as 12 points in the first half, 38-50.

Earlier in regulation, De Guzman's basket tied the

match at 85-all, while Joel Danao attempted to win the game for Connie's BBQ in the dying seconds of the thrilling game, but missed on his drive.

Danao was one of five Connie's BBQ players who finished in double figures in the extended game after posting 13 points. Barbo led Connie's with his 20 markers, while Camacho added 15, and Benjie Esmores and Cabang logged 12 apiece.

With its balance offense, Connie's moved in front in the first quarter, 24-16, and then increased the lead to 12 by halftime, 50-38.

However, at the resumption of the make-up game, IT&E Light fought back and trimmed the deficit to 1, 62-63. Juliene Gotengco and Aaron Pamintuan hit back-to-back triples to end the third period for IT&E Light and threaten Connie's BBQ, going into the fourth canto.

In the final quarter, the match remained close with Connie's clinging to an 85-83 lead after a split from Barbo



KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
Connie's BBQ's Nelson Cabang pulls up for a shot against IT&E Light's Jaymark De Guzman during the fourth quarter of their game in the 2019 One Pacific Promotional Basketball League last Tuesday at the Civic Center Court.

before De Guzman made the basket that sent the game in overtime.

De Guzman continued to lead IT&E Light in the extra five minutes of play, but Connie's BBQ hung tough in the end by hitting clutch free throws to pull off the victory. De Guzman had 39 points on a losing effort for IT&E Light, which dropped to a 4-6 record.

Connie's BBQ 97—Barbo 20, Camacho 15, Danao 13, Esmores 12, Cabang 12, Bongalan 8, Dela Cruz 8, Deleon Guerrero 5, Rodriguez 2, Dayao 2.

IT&E Light 94—DeGuzman 39, Henry 13, Pamintuan 13, Jose 8, Gotengco 7, Santos 6, Aglipay 4, Madre 2.

Scoring by quarters: 24-16, 50-38, 63-62, 85-85, 97-94.

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IAAF president Lord Sebastian Coe of the United Kingdom.

Meanwhile, Robin's daughter, Zarinae, joined him in the Doha trip, as the latter will be representing the CNMI to the 2019 IAAF World Athletics Championships.

The sprinter will be racing in the qualifying heat for the 100m run at the Khalifa International Stadium this Saturday. The qualifiers will start at 4:30pm (11:30pm Saipan time).

The biennial event will run until Oct. 6 and will feature more than 3,000 athletes from 205-IAAF member countries.

In Zarinae's event, the heavy favorites are Olympic champions and Jamaica's Shelly-Ann Fraser-Pryce (2008 and 2012) and Elaine Thompson (2016). Three other athletes—Tori Bowie of the U.S., Dina Asher-Smith of Great Britain, and Ivory Coast's Marie-Josée Ta Lou—are also considered as medal contenders.

closing down the facility, my No. 1 concern is my staff. They'll be out of payroll, where will they get money, do you think they can operate the gym for free? Maybe temporarily, until the programs are done. They'll go elsewhere and look for other opportunities," the NMSA official said.

Rogolifo admitted that time is not on NMSA's side, but still he is hopefully he will receive a positive response from Rep. John Paul Sablan (R-Saipan) within the next two weeks. Sablan is the chairman of the Saipan and Northern Islands Legislative Delegation, which finds and allocates funding from other government resources. Rogolifo said the lawmaker assured him that he will talk to Torres about NMSA's situation.

"We're crossing our fingers that something good is going to happen. Rep. JP Sablan met with the governor at 2:30pm yesterday and he was going to bring the issue up," Rogolifo said.

Rogolifo added that one of his biggest concerns is the staff who are paid to maintain the facilities. Without funding, they will be left taking care of the facility without pay. "I don't feel good about

Bike and Run For Cure this weekend

The Commonwealth Cancer Association, in conjunction with the Triathlon Association of the CNMI, will host the Bike and Run for Cure this Saturday.

The Bike and Run for Cure will be held in observance of the Childhood and Prostate Cancer Awareness Month and is open to the community. Registration is \$5 and all proceeds raised will go to the CCA.

Kick-off time is at 6am and the race will start at the American Memorial Park. The bike race will be from AMP to Banzai Cliff and back, while the run course is from AMP to the Gov. Eloy S. Inos Peace Park and back to the finish line.

This year's Bike and Run For Cure is sponsored by the Make-A-Wish Foundation Guam/NMI, IT&E, American Memorial Park, TRAC, Konoa Resort Saipan, MARPAC, Tan Holdings, DFS T-Galleria,

MOBIL

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canto and completed the recovery in the second half after outgunning Triple J, 47-22.

With Star Water facing a 4-19 deficit going into the second quarter, Christian Itaas scored 10 points and Edwin Santos added 6 to bring their squad within 2 at the break, 31-33.

When the game resumed,



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Bikers cruise along Banzai Cliff during a race early this year. The bike course of the Bike and Run for Cure will be from the American Memorial Park to Banzai Cliff and back.

Bank of Guam, and Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan.

Pre Hell Series 2

Meanwhile, the Northern Mariana Islands Cycling Federation will be holding the Pre

Hell of Marianas Series 2 on Oct. 6.

Start and finish lines will be across the Mariana Resort with bikers going to Mobil Tanapag, Radar Station, Suicide Cliff,



Bird Island, Grotto, and Banzai Cliff.

Registration fee is \$10 and sign up will begin at 5:30am. The race will start at 6:30am. (Kimberly A. Bautista)

Scoring by quarters: 4-19, 31-33, 49-45, 69-55.

Second Game

Joeten 2 89—Oracio 24, Agulto 17, Cruz 12, William 10, Mafnas 7, Montoya 6, Garcia 5, Darondon 4.

Mobil 70—Estolas 28, Concepcion 14, Almario 13, Wenceslao 8, Torres 3, Aguilera 4.

Scoring by quarters: 19-15, 41-36, 60-62, 89-70.

Santos played even better, adding 10 markers. The Star Water big man also found an ally in Rommel Dizon in the third quarter with the latter chipping in 7 points to put their team in the driver's seat, 49-45.

Santos' production alone in the penultimate frame was enough to outscore the entire Triple J crew, which tallied only 9 points off two field goals. Triple J continued to

fall in the final quarter, while Itaas, after failing to score in the third, finished strong with his 10 points to hand Star Water the victory.

First Game

Star Water 69—K. Itaas 22, Santos 17, Dizon 10, Gaviala 10, Marzan 4, Manas 2, Ezra 2.

Triple J 55—Cobacha 21, Mamaril 14, Abobo 8, Jarabe 3, Inos 3, Patron 3.



Nats eliminate
Phillies, clinch
wild card

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Nets not planning
for Durant to play
this season

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SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Oleai shutdown imminent

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
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REPORTER

Without funding from the government, the Oleai Sports Complex is likely to shut down.

Northern Marianas Sports Association executive director Tony Rogolifoi, in an interview yesterday, confirmed that without funding, NMSA will have no choice but to cease operation of the Oleai Sports Complex.

"We (NMSA) take care of the facilities but the assets, the land itself, it belongs to the government, we're just running the facilities. Closing down, that's the plan because we cannot operate without



A man walks inside the Oleai Sports Complex yesterday to use of one its facilities.

KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA

that funding. If we were to close, who is going to handle the operations? We can do it temporarily, for free, but we cannot continue without



funding because who is going to pay for the lights, for example," Rogolifoi said.

Under Gov. Ralph DLG. Torres' budget proposal for the FY

2020, no funds are allocated for NMSA, as part of the administration's austerity measures. The House of Representatives will convene either

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4th-quarter surge lifts Joeten 2 over Mobil

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

 Joeten 2 poured it all in the fourth quarter to top Mobil, 89-70, during their game in the 2018 JP World Corp. Customer Appreciation Basketball League last Tuesday at the Gillette Multipurpose Gymnasium.

Joeten 2 more than doubled Mobil's output in the final can to, 29-11, to take the victory.

Twelve of Joeten 2's total points in the fourth frame came from the 3-point area and the team spread the wealth, too, to turn a 60-62 deficit at the end of the third period to a double-digit winning margin.

Ian Oracion made one of those triples, as he finished with a team-high 24 points. He earlier had five triples to keep his team in the game in the first three pe-



Joeten 2's Yoshi Mafnas, left, goes up for a undergoal stab against Mobil's Alvin Almario during their game in the 2018 JP World Corp. Customer Appreciation Basketball League last Tuesday at the Gillette Multipurpose Gymnasium.

KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA

riods. Three more Joeten 2 players scored in twin digits to back up Oracion. Ramon Agulto tallied 17 points, including 8 in the fourth frame, while J.P. Cruz and Bennett William added 12 and 10, respectively.

Jun Estolas had 28 for Mobil, but was held to 3 points in the their fourth-quarter collapse. Mobil was limited to five field goals in the final frame with only Alvin Almario registering more than one basket for the losing squad.

Star Water 69, Triple J 55

Star Water recovered from a dismal showing in the first quarter to beat Triple J in the second game.

After scoring only 4 points in the opening period, Star Water clawed its way back into the game in the second

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Sapong receives IAAF recognition



OCEANIA ATHLETICS ASSOCIATION PHOTO
Northern Marianas Athletics general secretary Robin Sapong, right, poses with International Association of Athletics Federations president Lord Sebastian Coe of the United Kingdom after receiving the IAAF Veteran Pin during the welcome dinner for the 52nd IAAF Congress at Qatar National Convention Centre in Doha last Tuesday.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Northern Marianas Athletics general secretary Robin Sapong received the International Association of Athletics Federations Veteran Pin during the welcome dinner for the 52nd IAAF Congress at Qatar National Convention Centre in Doha last Tuesday. Sapong was among the three Oceania Athletics Association officials who were

presented with the prestigious award in recognition of their continued service and contribution to athletics. The three other awardees were Guam's Josephine Pinto and Tahiti's Daniel Vincente. Fiji's Filimon Vuli Waqa was also honored at the ceremony, as he received the IAAF Plaque of Merit.

The four OAA honorees received their award from

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